

**LOCAL RULES  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

*Effective February 1 , 2000*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Local Rules for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington have been adopted by the Court pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 83, FED. R. CRIM. P. 57, and 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(4). These Local Rules shall be cited as “LR\_\_\_\_” or “LMR\_\_\_\_”.

These rules shall govern all pending matters, except to the extent, in the opinion of the Court, their application in a case pending on February 1, 2000 would not be feasible or would work an injustice, in which event the procedure set forth in the former rules shall apply. Except as so limited, all prior local rules are hereby abrogated.

These rules govern all actions pending as of the effective date and supersede those rules promulgated on September 1, 1996. Substantive modifications have been kept to a minimum. Certain expansions and clarifications of existing Local Rules are treated as are the various amendments formulated since 1996. Counsel are required to be familiar with these Rules and the Federal Rules of Procedure, both civil and criminal, and amendments thereto.

Rules for practice in Bankruptcy Court have been separately published and are available from the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court.

The Court, on its own motion, may amend these Local Rules and the Court may, on its own motion or the motion of any party, modify or dispense with any Local Rule in a particular case.

The term “party” as used in these rules shall include the attorney for such party unless the context of the rule excludes such meaning.



## **LR 1.1**

### **SANCTIONS**

(a) Attorneys are expected to advise the Clerk promptly when a case is settled. Whenever any civil action scheduled for jury trial is settled or otherwise disposed of in advance of the actual trial, then, except for good cause shown, juror costs, including Marshal's fees, mileage and per diem, shall be assessed equally against the parties and/or their counsel, or otherwise assessed as directed by the Court, unless the Clerk's Office is notified at least one full business day prior to the day on which the action is scheduled for trial in time to advise the jurors that it will not be necessary for them to attend. In addition to the foregoing, any attorney who fails to give the Clerk such prompt advice may be subject to such sanctions as the Court deems appropriate.

(b) Failure of an attorney for any party or any party acting pro se to appear at a hearing, trial or conference, or to complete the necessary preparations therefor or to meet and confer as provided by these rules, or to appear or be prepared for any proceeding on the date assigned, shall be grounds for imposition of appropriate sanctions.

(c) The violation of or failure to conform to any of the Local Rules of this Court shall subject the offending party and/or his attorney, at the discretion of the Court, to

appropriate discipline, including the imposition of sanctions, attorney fees and costs as the Court may deem proper under the circumstances.

## **LR 3.1**

### **COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION AND FILING OF PAPERS**

(a) The filing of a complaint with the Clerk or, in his absence, any of his deputies at the Clerk's office in Spokane, Washington, shall constitute the commencement of the action in compliance with FED. R. CIV. P. 3.

#### **(b) Place of Filing**

All pleadings and documents other than the complaint shall be deemed filed when (1) delivered to the Clerk's office in Spokane, Richland or Yakima, or (2) delivered to the Clerk or a deputy clerk in open court while Court is in session.

(c) With the consent of a judge of this Court, an individual complaint may be filed in Yakima or Richland.

## **LR 3.2**

### **RICO CASE STATEMENT**

In cases which include claims under 18 U.S.C. § 1961 et seq., the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), the party asserting such claims shall, within ten days of filing/serving the pleading containing such claims (or whichever is later), file and serve a RICO Case Statement as hereinafter provided.

This statement shall include the facts the plaintiff is relying upon to initiate this RICO complaint as a result of the “reasonable inquiry” required by FED. R. CIV. P. 11. In particular, this statement shall be in a form which uses the numbers and letters as set forth below, and shall state in detail and with specificity the following information:

(a) State whether the alleged unlawful conduct is in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(a), (b), (c), and/or (d).

(b) List each defendant and state the alleged misconduct and basis of liability of each defendant.

(c) List the alleged wrongdoers, other than the defendants listed above, and state the alleged misconduct of each wrongdoer.

(d) List the alleged victims and state how each victim was allegedly injured.

(e) Describe in detail the pattern of racketeering activity or collection of unlawful debts alleged for each RICO claim. A description of the pattern of racketeering shall include the following information:

(1) List the alleged predicate acts and the specific statutes which were allegedly violated;

(2) Provide the dates of the predicate acts, the participants in the predicate acts, and a description of the facts surrounding the predicate acts;

(3) If the RICO claim is based on the predicate offenses of wire fraud, mail fraud, or fraud in the sale of securities, the “circumstances constituting fraud or mistake shall be stated with particularity.” FED. R. CIV. P. 9(b). Identify time, place and contents of the alleged misrepresentations, and the identity of persons to whom and by whom the alleged misrepresentations were made;

(4) State whether there has been a criminal conviction for violation of the predicate acts;

(5) State whether civil litigation has resulted in a judgment in regard to the predicate acts;

(6) Describe how the predicate acts form a “pattern of racketeering activity”; and

(7) State whether the alleged predicate acts relate to each other as part of a common plan. If so, describe in detail.

(f) Describe in detail the alleged enterprise for each RICO claim. A description of the enterprise shall include the following information:

(1) State the names of the individuals, partnerships, corporations, associations, or other legal entities, which allegedly constitute the enterprise;

(2) Describe the structure, purpose, function and course of conduct of the enterprise;

(3) State whether any defendants are employees, officers or directors of the alleged enterprise;

(4) State whether any defendants are associated with the alleged enterprise;

(5) State whether you are alleging that the defendants are individuals or entities separate from the alleged enterprise, or that the defendants are the enterprise itself, or members of the enterprise; and

(6) If any defendants are alleged to be the enterprise itself, or members of the enterprise, explain whether such defendants are perpetrators, passive instruments, or victims of the alleged racketeering activity.

(g) State and describe in detail whether you are alleging that the pattern of racketeering activity and the enterprise are separate or have merged into one entity.

(h) Describe the alleged relationship between the activities of the enterprise and the pattern of racketeering activity. Discuss how the racketeering activity differs from the usual and daily activities of the enterprise, if at all.

(i) Describe what benefits, if any, the alleged enterprise receives from the alleged pattern of racketeering.

(j) Describe the effect of the activities of the enterprise on interstate or foreign commerce.

(k) If the complaint alleges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(a), provide the following information:

(1) State who received the income derived from the pattern of racketeering activity or through the collection of an unlawful debt; and

(2) Describe the use or investment of such income.

(l) If the complaint alleges a violation of 18 U.S.C.

§ 1962(b), describe in detail the acquisition or maintenance of any interest in or control of the alleged enterprise.

(m) If the complaint alleges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c), provide the following information:

(1) State who is employed by or associated with the enterprise.

(2) State whether the same entity is both the liable “person” and the “enterprise” under § 1962(c).

(n) If the complaint alleges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d), describe the detail of the alleged conspiracy.

(o) Describe the alleged injury to business or property.

(p) Describe the direct causal relationship between the alleged injury and the violation of the RICO statute.

(q) List the damages sustained by reason of the violation of § 1962, indicating the amount for which each defendant is allegedly liable.

(r) List all other federal causes of action, if any, and provide the relevant statute numbers.

(s) List all pendent state claims, if any.

(t) Provide any additional information that you feel would be helpful to the Court in processing your RICO claims.

(u) If you cannot presently provide certain information requested above due to lack of discovery, set forth with specificity:

(1) the fact(s) presently unknown but which you expect to be able to prove;

(2) the nature of discovery you plan to undertake to develop such facts;

(3) of whom you intend to take discovery; and

(4) when you intend to commence and/or complete such discovery.

The Clerk shall refer all newly filed actions which contain a RICO claim to the assigned judge for review as soon as practicable after commencement of the action.



## **LR 4.1**

### **SERVICE OF PROCESS**

The United States Marshal's office will no longer serve civil process except on behalf of the United States or pursuant to a specific Order of the Court. It shall be the responsibility of counsel, or that of individual litigants acting without counsel, to cause proof of service of summons to be filed with the Clerk promptly after service has been accomplished.

Counsel should become familiar with the service-by-mail provisions of FED. R. CIV. P. 4.

## **LR 5.1**

### **SERVICE AND FILING OF PLEADINGS**

#### **(a) Service on Judge**

On or before the date required by these Rules or by Order of the Court for the filing of briefs, memoranda of authorities, forms of pretrial orders (or memoranda pertaining thereto), requested instructions to the jury, suggested questions for voir dire examination of the jury, proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, and motions (including affidavits and exhibits in support of motions), a duplicate copy of all such papers shall be provided to the judge before whom the case is pending. Service may be made by leaving such copy with the Clerk.

#### **(b) Proof of Service**

There shall be attached to each pleading or notice required to be served upon opposing counsel or parties, an affidavit evidencing the service of the pleading or notice. Such an affidavit, other than the affidavit of service of the summons and complaint, shall only be filed as an attachment to the pleading or notice being filed. The affidavit(s) of service of summons and complaint shall be separately filed.

The affidavit of service attached to pleadings or notices may be by stamp attached to a pleading or by way of a written affidavit attached to the pleading being filed.

**(c) Document Facsimile Filing**

Document facsimiles, including complaints, will be accepted for filing by the Clerk subject to specific administrative rules contained in General Order 77-A. Generally, facsimile filing or filing by fax means the facsimile transmission of a document to a fax filing agency contracted by the Court for filing with the Court. The fax filing agency, contracted by the Court, acts similar to a messenger service, filing a hard copy facsimile transmission as if it were the original with the Court.

Electronic transmission of a document via facsimile machine does not constitute filing; filing is complete when the document is filed with the Clerk.

The image of the original manual signature on the fax copy will constitute an original signature for all court purposes. The original signed document shall not be substituted, except by court order. The original signed document shall be maintained by the attorney of record or the party originating the document, for a period no less than the maximum allowable time to complete the appellate process.

No documents may be transmitted directly to the Clerk by fax for filing. Any documents so transmitted shall be rejected and not filed.

The fax filing agency contracted by the Court shall ensure that additional copies necessary for filing shall be reproduced; take the document(s) to the Court and file the document(s) with the Court; on behalf of the client, attorney or litigant, pay any applicable filing fee; and ensure that all documents to be filed with the Court shall be on size 8 ½ x 11 inch bond.

Billing and collection of all fees for filing shall be made through the fax filing agency. The fax filing agency shall not be required to accept papers for filing unless appropriate arrangements for payment of filing fees and service charges have been made by the transmitting party before the papers are transmitted to the fax filing agency.

## **LR 7.1**

### **MOTION PRACTICE**

#### **(a) Motions Shall be in Writing**

All motions, unless made during a hearing or trial, shall be in writing and shall be made sufficiently in advance of trial to comply with the time periods set forth in this rule or other Order of the Court and to avoid any delays in the trial.

#### **(b) Memorandum by Moving Party**

The moving party shall serve and file with the motion a memorandum setting forth the points and authorities relied upon in support of the motion. Parties and counsel are reminded that [LR 7.1\(h\)\(5\)](#) provides that a failure to timely file a memorandum of points and authorities in support or opposition to any motion may be considered by the Court as consent on the part of the party failing to file such memorandum to the entry of an order adverse to the party in default. A failure to file a Notice of Hearing with a motion shall likewise be construed to be consent to the entry of an adverse order.

#### **(c) Responsive Memorandum**

The opposing party shall, after service, unless otherwise ordered by the Court, have eleven (11) calendar days in a civil case and five (5) days excluding weekends and holidays in a criminal case, within which to serve and file a responsive memorandum. See FED. R. CIV. P. 6.

**(d) Reply Memorandum**

The moving party, unless otherwise ordered by the Court shall have five (5) days, excluding weekends and holidays, after service of the responsive memorandum to file a reply memorandum.

**(e) Motion Setting**

Motions may be set by Counsel without oral argument on any weekday. Counsel setting a hearing with oral argument shall contact the courtroom deputy of the presiding judge to determine available argument motion days.

**(f) Length of Memoranda**

Memoranda relating to motions for summary judgment or other dispositive motions shall not exceed twenty (20) pages without prior approval of the Court. Memoranda relating to all other motions shall not exceed ten (10) pages without prior approval of the Court. For the purpose of determining compliance with this rule appendices are included. Copies of decisions required under section (g) of this Rule are not included. [LR 56.1](#) Statements of Material Fact are not included. Waiver of page limitations may be granted only upon motion demonstrating good cause. The motion may be heard ex parte.

**(g) Citation of Authorities**

(1) Citations to cases in briefs shall include volume, page and year as follows:

Washington cases: cite Washington Reports and year of decision.

Federal cases: For decisions of the United States Supreme Court, cite United States Reports, or if not yet published therein, Supreme Court Reporter, or if not yet published therein, United States Law Week. For all other federal cases, cite Federal Reporter, Federal Supplement, Federal Rules Decisions, or Bankruptcy Reporter including the district or circuit and year of the decision.

(2) Unpublished decisions may not be cited, except that (a) unpublished Ninth Circuit decisions may be cited in accordance with Circuit Rule 36-3, and (b) unpublished Eastern District of Washington decisions may be cited when relevant under the doctrines of law of the case, res judicata, or collateral estoppel. Decisions are “published” only when available or pending publication in official state or federal reporters. Decisions available only in looseleaf services, slip opinions or electronic databases are not published.

(3) Photocopies of significant cases relied on by counsel published in reporters and publications other than those listed in paragraph (1) above shall be attached to the chamber's copy of the memorandum.

#### **(h) Hearing on Motions**

(1) Any party filing a motion shall also file a notice setting the time, date and place for a hearing on a motion. The date of the hearing is at least 25 days after filing of the motion if all parties’ counsel (or parties when pro se) are in the same city, or at least 31 days if counsel are not in the same city, or at least 50 days if plaintiff is a pro se prisoner and the motion is for summary judgment,

plus one or two extra days if necessary to make the hearing date fall on a weekday. The time of the hearing need only be included if the movant requests oral argument. If the movant requests oral argument, movant's counsel shall consult with opposing counsel and the presiding judge's courtroom deputy to determine an available hearing date (on or after the date calculated above) and time. Telephonic argument may be requested by out-of-town counsel, but counsel should consult the presiding judge's courtroom deputy to determine the judge's telephonic argument policy. If the movant does not request oral argument, but the opposing party later does, then the opposing party's counsel shall consult with movant's counsel and the presiding judge's courtroom deputy to determine an available hearing date (on or after the date calculated above) and time.

(2) Parties may request oral argument in support of or in opposition to any motion. A movant who desires to be heard orally shall endorse the request in the caption of the motion. If no such request is made, the opposing party may file a request for oral argument with his statement in opposition to the motion. If the opponent makes no such request, movant may request oral argument within 5 days after service of the statement in opposition. Without such a request, oral argument is waived.

(3) Notwithstanding the foregoing procedure, the Court may in its discretion determine that oral argument is not warranted and proceed to determine any motion brought under this rule without oral presentation.



(4) Unless specially ordered, not more than fifteen (15) minutes shall be allowed each party for oral argument on any motion.

(5) A failure to timely file a memorandum of points and authorities in support of or in opposition to any motion may be considered by the Court as consent on the part of the party failing to file such memorandum to the entry of an Order adverse to the party in default.

(6) The Court on its own motion or on the written request of any party, may waive the time requirements of this rule and grant an immediate hearing on any emergency matter. The request shall set forth in detail the reasons for an expedited hearing.

## **LR 9.1**

### **STANDARD FORMS FOR HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS AND MOTIONS**

Petitions for habeas corpus shall be on forms furnished by the Clerk. Pursuant to agreement between the Western and Eastern Districts of Washington, all cases in which habeas corpus relief challenging a conviction or sentence is sought shall be processed in the district where the conviction took place regardless of where the prisoner is incarcerated.

## **LR 9.2**

### **ADMIRALTY RULES**

The Admiralty Rules heretofore adopted and promulgated by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, and all additions thereto and amendments thereof, are hereby by reference adopted as and shall hereafter be the Admiralty Rules of the Eastern District of Washington. The Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington is directed to maintain at all times three copies or more of the latest edition of such Admiralty Rules for reference of attorneys in this district. If by their terms they are clearly inapplicable, they will be supplemented by subsections of this rule and/or orders of this Court.

#### **(a) Publication of Notices**

Publication of notices shall be once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the district where the property is seized or located.

## **LR 10.1**

### **GENERAL FORMAT OF PAPERS PRESENTED FOR FILING**

(a) All papers presented for filing shall be in English and prepared on letter size (8½" x 11") paper. Without prior approval of the Court, all attachments shall also be no larger than 8 ½" x 11" letter size paper.

(1) Pre-punching: all documents presented for filing shall be pre-punched with two normal-size holes (approximately ¼" diameter), centered 2¾" apart, ½" to ⅝" from the top edge of the document.

(2) All papers submitted must be of good quality on which line numbers appear at the left margin. The material thereon shall be typed, printed or prepared by a clearly legible duplicating process, and shall be double-spaced. Quoted material may be single-spaced, however footnotes shall be double-spaced. All typed and printed matter must appear in either a proportionately spaced typeface of 14 points or more or a monospaced typeface of no more than 10.5 characters per inch. A proportionately spaced typeface has characters with different widths. A monospaced typeface has characters with the same advanced width. Text shall be in roman (upright letters), non-script type. No pleading, document, or brief may have an average of more than 280 words per page, including footnotes and quotations. The word count does not include addenda containing statutes, rules, regulations, etc.

(3) On the first page of each pleading or similar document the title of the Court shall appear on or below the fifth line. All pleadings shall be signed as required by FED. R. CIV. P. 11. Names shall be typed underneath all signature lines.

(b) In the space to the right of the center of the first page, opposite the caption of the case, there shall be placed:

(1) the case number;

(2) The nature of the document, such as complaint, answer, motion, order, affidavit, and so forth; and the name and status of the party on whose behalf the document is filed;

(3) the words “Class Action” when class action relief is requested;

(4) the words “Demand for Jury Trial” or its equivalent when a party demands a jury.

(c) The first page of each pleading or other paper (except instructions) shall contain the name, mailing address and telephone number of the attorney or firm submitting the paper on the left side above line five.

(d) At the left side of the bottom of each paper of all papers (other than instructions) an abbreviated name of the paper should be repeated, followed by the page number.

(e) All appendices to pleadings shall be paginated progressively, but shall, following the number on the page,

show also the appendix number which may be alphabetical, numerical or some combination thereof.

(f) On a written motion or stipulation, the form of proposed order granting the motion or approving the stipulation shall be submitted separately.

(g) Any document requiring the signature of the Court shall provide as follows:

“Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_.

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United States District Judge”

and the signature page shall include a portion of the text of the document.

(h) Every civil complaint shall be accompanied by a Civil Cover Sheet (JS-44); and shall also be accompanied by a form of summons prepared by counsel for issuance by the Clerk with sufficient copies for service. These forms may be obtained from the office of the Clerk.

**(i) Prisoner Civil Rights Actions**

Actions by inmates of a penal or treatment institution seeking relief for alleged violations of civil rights shall be on a form of complaint which will be furnished by the Clerk.

## **LR 16.1**

### **PRETRIAL PROCEDURE**

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court in a particular case, the following shall be the pretrial procedure in civil cases:

#### **(a) Status Conference**

Not later than (90) days after an action is commenced, the Clerk will send each attorney of record a Notice of Status Conference setting forth a time at which such conference will be held. Thereafter, the attorneys for the parties shall promptly confer with one another and discuss all matters referenced in the Notice and in FED. R. CIV. P. 16(c) and 26(f), and file written reports, jointly or separately, setting forth the results of such discussion at such time as the Notice may direct. This report shall be filed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the conference date.

#### **(b) Pretrial Order**

At least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled pretrial conference, all counsel and *pro se* parties shall confer in a good faith attempt to formulate a pretrial order, to be filed as a stipulated order no later than five days before the conference. The Court may cancel a conference for which a stipulated order has been filed.

Should the parties fail to agree on a pretrial order, each shall prepare a proposed pretrial order, to be served and submitted to the Clerk no later than five days before the conference.

Title of Court and Cause No.

#### PRETRIAL ORDER

A pretrial conference was held in the above entitled cause at \_\_\_\_\_, Washington on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ with Judge \_\_\_\_\_ presiding. Plaintiff was represented by \_\_\_\_\_ and defendant by \_\_\_\_\_ their respective attorneys of record. The following pretrial order has been formulated and settled as follows:

#### NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS AND STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION (insert statement)

The following facts are agreed upon by the parties and require no proof:

- 1.
  - 2.
- etc.

#### PLAINTIFF'S CONTENTIONS

Plaintiff's contentions as to disputed issues are:

- 1.
  - 2.
- etc.





### DEFENDANT'S CONTENTIONS

Defendant's contentions as to disputed issues are:

- 1.
  - 2.
- etc.

### ISSUES OF FACT

The following are the issues of fact to be determined by trial:

- 1.
  - 2.
- etc.

### ISSUES OF LAW

The following are the issues of law to be determined by the Court:

- 1.
  - 2.
- etc.

## EXHIBITS

The following exhibits may be received in evidence, if otherwise admissible, without further authentication, it being admitted that each is what it purports to be:

### Plaintiff's Exhibits:

- 1.
- 2.
- etc.

### Defendant's Exhibits:

- 1.
- 2.
- etc.

The following plaintiff's exhibits are objected to by defendant:

- 1.
- 2.
- etc.

The following defendant's exhibits are objected to by plaintiff:

- 1.
- 2.
- etc.

Other than for impeachment purposes, the only exhibits admitted at trial will be exhibits identified herein or on a supplemental list filed at least fifteen days before trial, or at such earlier date as may have been set by the court, which supplemental list shall bear counsel's certificate that opposing counsel has had an opportunity to examine the exhibits.

Objections to exhibits, except as to relevancy, must be heard prior to trial.

#### WITNESSES

The following witnesses may be called by plaintiff (If expert, give field of expertise):

- 1.
- 2.
- etc.

The following witnesses may be called by defendant (If expert, give field of expertise):

- 1.
- 2.
- etc.

Other than for rebuttal purposes, no witnesses may be called unless listed above.

#### RELIEF SOUGHT

(INSERT)

TRIAL

The parties estimate \_\_\_\_ days trial time. The parties stipulate and agree that (check appropriate box):

- \_\_\_\_\_ An alternate juror is recommended.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If a juror is excused during trial for good cause the parties stipulate to a verdict by five jurors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ No stipulation reached as to above.

Unless otherwise specified in a scheduling order, proposed instructions and trial memoranda shall be filed and served at least five days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, prior to commencement of trial.

#### ACTION BY THE COURT

The Court has ruled that (any ruling that may have been made by the Court)

- 1.
  - 2.
- etc.

It is hereby ORDERED that the foregoing constitutes the pretrial order in the case and that upon the filing hereof all pleadings pass out of the case and are superseded by this Order. This Order may be amended by consent of the parties and approval by the Court or by the Court to prevent manifest injustice.

DATED THIS                      day of                      , 20\_\_

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United States District Judge

## LR 16.2

### ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

#### (a) **Preliminary**

Through the passage of the "Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 1998", 28 U.S.C. §§ 651, *et seq.*, Congress has encouraged federal courts to review and strengthen their alternative dispute resolution (ADR) programs. Such programs may provide greater satisfaction to the parties, provide innovative methods of resolving disputes and increase the efficiency in achieving settlements. Moreover, the adoption of Congressional requirements for the priority scheduling of criminal trials, have placed substantially greater pressures on litigants, counsel, and the Court.

The parties in civil actions shall consider alternative dispute resolution and be prepared to discuss ADR at the time of the first scheduling conference. Forms of ADR include but are not limited to mediation, summary jury trials, early neutral evaluation, arbitration and mini trials. The parties may plan to privately select and reimburse third party neutrals or request a court-annexed program. (See [LR 16.2\(c\)](#) below.)

#### (b) **Settlement Negotiations**

The Court encourages the attorneys for all parties to the action, except nominal parties and stakeholders, to meet

at least once and engage in a good faith attempt to negotiate a settlement of the action.

**(c) Court-Annexed Programs**

In selected cases, the Court may refer matters to magistrate judges or volunteer third party neutrals.

(1) Matters referred for mediation/settlement conferences by the District Court judges to the magistrate judges in this district shall be governed by the directives in the magistrate judge's scheduling order.

(2) Matters referred to mediators, special masters, or arbitrators shall be governed by this rule.

**(a) Register of Third Party Neutrals**

(1) The judges of the district shall establish and maintain a register of qualified attorneys who have volunteered to serve, without compensation, as mediators, special masters and arbitrators in civil cases in this court. Under appropriate circumstances, it may be necessary for the parties to provide payment, at usual and customary levels as determined by the Court, for the services of an attorney designated under this rule. The attorneys so registered shall be selected by the judges of the district from lists of qualified attorneys at law, who are members of the bar of this court, and who are recommended to the judges by the Federal Bar

Association of the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington. The Federal Bar Association shall request the county bar associations within the geographical boundaries of the district to cooperate with the Association in obtaining well-qualified volunteers for the register.

(2) *Minimum Qualifications*

To qualify for service as a mediator, special master or arbitrator under this rule, an attorney shall have the following minimum qualifications:

- (a) Have been admitted to practice in a state court for at least 5 years; and
- (b) Be a member of the bar of the United States District Court for the Eastern or Western District of Washington.

(3) *Disqualification*

No person may serve as a neutral in an ADR proceeding under this rule in violation of the standards set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 455 or any applicable standard of professional responsibility or rule of professional conduct. Within five (5) business days of designation as a neutral under this rule, the designee and parties shall thoroughly assess whether a conflict of interest or other basis for disqualification exists. If recusal is deemed appropriate, the neutral shall submit *in camera* a letter to the



parties and court stating the fact of recusal, and another neutral will be selected.

(4) *Immunity of Neutrals*

All persons serving as neutrals under this local rule are deemed to be performing quasi-judicial functions and are entitled to the immunities and protections that the law accords to persons serving in such capacity.

(5) *Criteria for Designations*

In designating a mediator, a special master or an arbitrator, the judge shall take into consideration the nature of the action and the nature of the practice of the attorneys on the register. When feasible, the judge shall designate an attorney who has had substantial experience in the type of action in which the attorney is to act as mediator, special master or arbitrator.

**(b) Mediation**

(1) *Definition*

Mediation is a process whereby an impartial third party (the *mediator*) facilitates communication between negotiating parties attempting to reach an agreed settlement of their dispute. When appropriate the mediator may also offer an evaluation of the case and/or recommend a settlement. Whether a settlement results from a mediation is within the sole control of the parties.

*(2) Selection of Mediator*

The Court may consult with the parties and shall designate a mediator from the register, or if necessary, within the discretion of the Court, from outside the register and shall send notice of that designation to the mediator and to all attorneys of record in the action.

*(3) Mediation Procedure*

*A. Copy of Pretrial Order or Pleadings*

Upon selection of a mediator the parties shall forthwith provide the mediator with a copy of the pretrial order, if one has been lodged in the cause. If a pretrial order has not been lodged, they shall provide the mediator with copies of their then effective pleadings.

*B. Time and Place*

The mediator shall fix a time and place for the mediation conference, and all adjourned sessions, that is reasonably convenient for the parties and shall give them at least 14 days written notice of the initial conference. The conference shall be set to begin as soon as practicable after submission of the papers referenced in the preceding paragraph, but in no event more than two months after the mediator has been notified of his/her selection.

*C. Memoranda*

(1) Each party shall provide the mediator with a memorandum presenting in concise form his/her contentions relative to both liability and damages. This memorandum shall not exceed 10

pages in length. Copies of this memorandum shall be served upon all other parties at least 7 days before the mediation conference.

(2) In addition, each party, at least 7 days before the mediation conference, shall submit, to the mediator only, an additional memorandum on a confidential basis, and not served on the other parties, indicating strengths and weaknesses in that party's case and the range in which that party proposes settlement. Memoranda so submitted shall be treated with confidentiality by the mediator, and shall be labeled "Confidential".

*D. Attendance and  
Preparation Required*

The attorney who is primarily responsible for each party's case shall personally attend the mediation conference and any adjourned sessions of that conference. The attorney for each party shall come prepared to discuss the following matters in detail and in good faith.

1. All liability issues.
2. All damage issues.
3. The position of his/her client relative to settlement.

*E. Parties to be in Attendance*

Unless previously excused by the mediator for good cause, the parties shall personally attend. The mediator shall decide when the parties are to be present in the conference room. Parties whose defense is provided by a liability insurance company need not personally attend said mediation confer-

ence, if previously excused by the mediator, but a representative of the insurer of said parties shall attend and shall be empowered to bind the insurer to a settlement if a settlement can be reached within the limits set by that insurer.

*F. Failure to Attend*

Willful failure to attend the mediation conference, unless excused by the mediator, shall be reported to the Court by the mediator and may result in the imposition of such sanctions as the Court may find appropriate.

*G. Time Requirements*

Any of the time requirements of this rule may be waived or extended by the Court, upon application, and a showing of good cause.

*(4) Proceedings Privileged*

All proceedings of the mediation conference, including any statement made by any party, attorney or other participant, shall, in all respects, be privileged and not reported, recorded, placed in evidence, made known to the trial court or jury, or construed for any purpose as an admission against interest. No party shall be bound by anything done or said at the conference unless a settlement is reached, in which event the agreement upon a settlement shall be reduced to writing, or otherwise placed on the record, and shall be binding upon all parties to that agreement.

*(5) Notice to Clients of  
Mediator's Suggestions*

If the mediator makes any oral or written suggestion as to the advisability of a change in any party's position with respect to settlement, the attorney for that party shall promptly transmit that suggestion to his client.

The mediator shall have no obligation to make any written comments or recommendations but may in his or her discretion provide the attorneys for the parties with a written settlement recommendation memorandum. No copy of such memorandum shall be filed with the Clerk or made available in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, either to the Court or to the jury.

The attorneys for the parties shall forward copies of such memorandum to their clients and shall advise them of the fact that the mediator is a qualified attorney who has volunteered to act as an impartial mediator without compensation, if that is the case, in an attempt to help the parties reach agreement and avoid the time, expense and uncertainty of trial.

The mediator shall have the duty and authority to establish the time schedule for mediation activities, including a schedule for the parties to act upon the mediator's recommendation having in mind that the purpose of this order is prompt dispute resolution.

(6) *Consideration of Special  
Master or Arbitrator*

If the mediator is unable to mediate a settlement, the mediator shall explore with

counsel the desirability of the appointment of a special master or an arbitrator under this rule and whether such an appointment might lead to the resolution of all or any of the matters in controversy. With the consent of counsel the mediator shall convey in writing to the judge to whom the matter has been assigned, the conclusions of counsel and of the mediator relative to the possible narrowing of issues and relative to the appointment of a special master or an arbitrator.

*(7) Notice of Compliance*

If no settlement results from the mediation, the mediator shall promptly file with the Clerk a certificate showing that there has been compliance with the mediation requirements of this rule but that no settlement has been reached.

**(c) Special Mediation Master**

*(1) Appointment of Special Mediation Master*

If all of the parties to an action stipulate in writing to the reference of the action to a special mediation master and agree upon a particular attorney as special mediation master, and if the special master and the Court consent to the assignment, an order of reference shall be entered. If the parties cannot agree upon the selection of a special mediation master but stipulate in writing that there be a reference to a special mediation master, the Court shall promptly designate a special mediation master from the register, or as otherwise determined by the

Court, and shall send notice of that designation to the special mediation master and to all attorneys of record in the action.

*(2) Powers and Duties*

The powers and duties of the special master and the effect of his/her report shall be as set forth in FED. R. CIV. P.53 except as the same may be modified or limited by agreement of the parties and incorporated in the order of reference.

*(3) Confidentiality of Proceedings*

The Court, in the order of reference, shall specify the extent to which the proceeding shall be confidential.

*(4) Time and Place*

The special master shall fix a time and place for hearing, and all adjourned hearings, which is reasonably convenient for the parties and shall give them at least 14 days' written notice of the initial hearing.

(5) *Discovery*

If discovery has not been completed, it may continue during the pendency of the matter before the special master, unless the special master concludes that the matters require no further discovery and discovery would impede the exercise of the powers and duties under this rule, in which event he or she may request an order from the Court to stay discovery.

(6) *Other Special Master  
Appointments*

This rule shall not limit the authority of the Court to appoint compensated special masters to supervise discovery or for other purposes, under the provisions of FED. R. CIV. P. 53.

**(d) Arbitration**

(1) *Definition*

Arbitration is a process whereby an impartial third party (the *arbitrator*) hears and considers the evidence and testimony of the disputants and others with relevant knowledge and issues a decision on the merits of the dispute. The arbitrator makes an *award* on the issue(s) presented for decision. The arbitrator's award is binding or non-binding as the parties may agree in writing.

(2) *Agreement for Arbitration*

If all parties agree to submit the action to arbitration under this rule, they shall reduce their agreement to writing and file the same with the Court. Pursuant to the ADR Act of 1998, 28 U.S.C.



§ 654(a), the Court may not refer to arbitration any action based on a violation of constitutional rights, where jurisdiction is based in whole or part on 28 U.S.C. § 1343, or where relief sought consists of money damages in an amount greater than \$150,000.

The agreement to arbitrate shall state a) whether the decision to arbitrate is freely and knowingly made, b) the extent to which the proceedings shall be confidential and c) whether the arbitration award is to be final and conclusive with trial de novo waived, or whether a party dissatisfied with the award may obtain a trial de novo upon timely application to the Court. No party may be prejudiced for refusing to agree to arbitration.

(3) *Appointment of Arbitrator and Order Directing Arbitration*

The parties may agree on the appointment of a particular attorney from the register as arbitrator, and if that attorney and the Court consent to the assignment, an order directing arbitration and appointing that arbitrator shall be entered. The parties may stipulate to arbitration under this rule without agreeing upon an arbitrator, in which event the Court shall designate an arbitrator from the register, or as otherwise determined by the Court, and shall send notice of that designation to the parties, together with its order directing arbitration. The order to arbitrate shall incorporate the term set forth in the agreement to arbitrate.

(4) *Oath or Affirmation*

The arbitrator shall take the oath or affirmation prescribed by 28 U.S.C. § 453.

*(5) Pleading and Discovery*

The arbitration shall be conducted on the basis of the order to arbitrate, the pleadings before the Court (or the pretrial order if filed) and the pretrial discovery had before the Court. Further proceedings before the Court shall be stayed during the pendency of the arbitration; provided, however, that the arbitrator may authorize additional discovery and may order hearing briefs and memoranda filed with him/her.

*(6) Time and Place of Hearing*

The arbitrator shall designate a place and time for hearing the case on its merits as early as possible consistent with the parties' needs to complete their preparation for the hearing.

*(7) Conduct of Hearing*

All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation administered by the arbitrator. In receiving evidence, the arbitrator shall apply the Federal Rules of Evidence. Attendance of witnesses and production of documents may be compelled under FED. R. CIV. P. 45. The arbitrator may make reasonable rules and issue orders necessary for the fair and efficient conduct of the hearing and prehearing proceedings. Failure, without good cause, to comply with the arbitrator's rules and orders shall be reported to the Court for its consideration of imposition of sanctions.

*(8) Transcript or Recording*

A party may cause a transcript or recording to be made of the proceedings at the party's expense but shall, at the request of the opposing party, make a copy available to any other party upon the payment by that party of the cost of this copy. In the absence of agreement of the parties, or applicable rule of law, no transcript of the proceedings shall be admissible in evidence at a later de novo trial except for purposes of impeachment.

(9) *Ex Parte Communication*

There shall be no ex parte communication between the arbitrator and any counsel or party on any matter touching the action except for purposes of scheduling or continuing the hearing.

(10) *Filing of Award*

The arbitrator shall file the award with the Clerk's Office with reasonable promptness following the closing of the hearing. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 657(b), the award shall not be made known to any judge who may be assigned to the case for a trial de novo, until the time to request a trial de novo has passed. The Clerk shall transmit copies of the award to all parties.

(11) *Form of Award*

The award shall state clearly and concisely the name or names of the prevailing party or parties and the party or parties against which it is rendered, and the precise amount of money and other relief, if any, which is awarded. Unless otherwise required by the agreement to arbitrate, the award need not disclose the facts or reasons in support of

the award. The award shall be in writing and signed by the arbitrator.

(12) *Vacation, Modification or Correction of Award*

A. Within 30 days of the filing of the award, any party may move the Court to vacate and set aside the award on one or more of the grounds set forth in 9 U.S.C. § 10, or may move to modify or correct the award on one or more of the grounds set forth in 9 U.S.C. § 11. Thereafter, the Court shall hear and determine the issues raised, and enter an order in conformity.

B. After said 30-day period, and any extended time required for hearing and determining the issues presented by motion filed under (12)(A) above, the Court may direct the entry of judgment on the award under FED. R. CIV. P. 58. The judgment shall have the same force and effect as that of any other judgment of the Court in a civil action.

(13) *Trial De Novo*

A. *Time For Demand*

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this rule, if the parties in the agreement to arbitrate did not agree to waive trial de novo, either party may, within 30 days of the filing of the award, serve and file a written demand for trial de novo and thereafter the action shall proceed as a trial de novo before the judge to whom the case has been assigned.

B. *Limitation of Evidence*

At a trial de novo, unless the parties have otherwise stipulated, no evidence of or concerning the arbitration may be received into evidence except that statements made by a witness at the arbitration hearing may be used for impeachment only.

*C. Costs and Attorney's Fees*

If trial de novo is not had, costs and attorney's fees will not be assessed against any party unless authorized by contract or specific statute and itemized and included in the arbitration award. If trial de novo is had, costs and attorney's fees for the arbitration proceeding may be assessed as in any other proceeding before the Court; provided, however, that, if the party who requested the trial de novo fails to obtain a judgment which is more favorable to that party than was the arbitration award, a reasonable attorney's fee for the trial de novo may be assessed against that party by the Court.

*(14) Other Agreements for Arbitration*

Notwithstanding the provisions of this rule, the parties to any action or proceeding may stipulate to its referral to arbitration upon such terms as they may agree to, subject to approval of the Court. In the event of such referral, the applicable provisions of state and federal law governing voluntary arbitration shall control.

## **LR 17.1**

### **CLAIMS OF MINORS AND INCOMPETENTS AND DISPOSITION OF FUNDS**

#### **(a) Representation**

At the time of the commencement of any action involving a beneficial interest or claim of a minor or incompetent, the plaintiff shall petition the Court and obtain appointment by the Court of an independent guardian ad litem to represent the interest of the ward. The guardian ad litem shall be an attorney admitted to practice before this Court. The guardian ad litem shall be independently appointed by the Court. At the time of the commencement of the action, counsel for the plaintiff shall submit to the Court a list of not less than three attorneys and their qualifications, who are willing to serve as guardian ad litem. Upon a showing of good cause, the Court may dispense with the appointment of a guardian ad litem.

#### **(b) Procedure for Settlement or Compromise**

Counsel for the minor/incompetent shall consult with the guardian ad litem prior to proposing or responding to any settlement offer. No claims of a ward shall be settled or compromised without the prior approval of the Court. Prior to the presentment to the court of any proposed settlement, the guardian ad litem shall independently investigate the proposed settlement, and shall file a written report with the court as to its adequacy, including an analysis of costs and fees.

**(c) Hearing and Calculation of Fee**

At the time the petition for approval of the settlement is heard, the allowance and taxation of all fees, costs, and other charges incident to the settlement of the minor's claim shall be considered and disposed of by the Court.

It is the policy of this Court that a contingent attorney fee be calculated on the net recovery after deduction of all costs. Except in unusual circumstances, attorney's fees shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the net recovery. In the case of a structured settlement or annuity, the fee shall be based on the actual cost of the annuity, the cost of which may be disclosed *in camera* upon request.

**(d) Deposit in Court and Disbursements**

Unless otherwise ordered all funds recovered on behalf of a minor or incompetent, either through settlement or judgment, shall be paid into the registry of the Court. Payment out of such funds for attorney's fees, costs or other allowable expenses shall be paid only upon approval of the Court.

**(e) Control of Remaining Funds**

(1) *Under \$20,000.* If the money or the value of other property remaining is \$20,000 or less and there is no general guardian of the ward, the Court shall require that (A) the money be deposited in a bank or trust company or be invested in an account in an insured financial institution for the benefit of the ward subject to withdrawal only

upon the order of the Court as part of the original proceeding, or (B) a general guardian be appointed and the money or other property be paid or delivered to such guardian.

(2) *Over \$20,000.* If the money or the value of other property remaining exceeds \$20,000, and there is no general guardian of the ward, the Court in the order or judgment shall require that a general guardian be appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

**(f) Deposit of Minor's Funds**

Checks for funds for the benefit of a minor may be made out by the Clerk jointly to the depository bank, trust company, or insured financial institution and the independent attorney for the minor, guardian ad litem or general guardian and deposit shall be made in a blocked account for the minor with provision that withdrawals cannot be made without court order. A deposit receipt to that effect must forthwith be filed with the Court by the attorney or guardian.



## **LR 24.1**

### **PROCEDURE FOR NOTIFICATION OF ANY CLAIM OF UNCONSTITUTIONALITY**

#### **Constitutionality Question - Notice**

In any case in which the constitutionality of any Act of Congress is brought into question and in which the United States or any agency, officer or employee thereof is not a party, the party raising the constitutional issue shall file with the Clerk two copies of a notice, for service on the Attorney General of the United States, giving the title of the case, a reference to the questioned statute and the respects in which the party asserts the statute is unconstitutional. Service of such notice, by the Court, shall be made on the United States Attorney for this district.

## **LR 26.1**

### **FILING OF DISCOVERY MATERIAL**

The formulation of a discovery plan as required by FED. R. CIV. P. 26(f) shall be accomplished at least 14 days prior to the scheduling conference. The agreed plan shall be included in the joint status certificate filed with the Court. No other discovery materials, including interrogatories, requests for production, requests for admission, depositions, and FED. R. CIV. P. 26(a)(1) initial disclosure statements, shall be filed. Those portions of discovery necessary to the disposition of motions shall be appended to the relevant filing.

The initiating party shall have the responsibility for maintaining discovery material and making it available as may be required during proceedings.

## **LR 26.2**

### **DISCOVERY**

The entire FED. R. CIV. P. 26 applies to all civil actions, except those listed herein, filed on and after November 1, 1994, and to any action filed prior to that date if specifically ordered by the judge in whose court the action is pending. The type of actions which will not be subject to FED. R. CIV. P. 26, unless specifically ordered by the Court, are:

1. Bankruptcy Appeals
2. Social Security Appeals
3. Equal Access to Justice Actions
4. Statutory Penalty Actions
5. Review of Action of Governmental Agency  
Where the Matter is Heard on the Administrative Record
6. Actions to Register or Enforce Judgments
7. 28 U.S.C. §§ 2254 and 2255 Habeas Corpus Actions

A party or litigant may at any appropriate time, upon good cause shown, make application to the Court in any individual action for relief from the requirements of any portion of FED. R. CIV. P. 26.

## **LR 30.1**

### **DEPOSITIONS**

#### **(a) Number of Depositions**

A party must obtain leave of court, which shall be granted to the extent consistent with the principles stated in FED. R. CIV. P. 26(b)(2), if the person to be examined is confined in prison or if, without the written stipulation of the parties, a proposed deposition would result in more than ten (10) depositions being taken under this rule or FED. R. CIV. P. 31 by the plaintiffs, or by the defendants, or by third-party defendants in accordance with FED. R. CIV. P. 30(a)(2)(A).

#### **(b) Depositions of Prisoners**

Leave of court for the Attorney General or United States Attorney to take the deposition of a person confined in prison, pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 30(a), shall not be required unless such attorney (where witness is a state prisoner) certifies in writing to the court that a responsible official of the institution where the witness is confined disapproves of the taking of the proposed deposition. In that event the matter shall be presented to the Court by appropriate motion.

## LR 32.1

### USE OF DEPOSITIONS AT TRIAL

Depositions shall not be filed. It will be the deposing party's responsibility to maintain the original and to make it available as may be required for proceedings.

Depositions which a party intends to use at trial in lieu of calling the witness must be purged of all repetitious and irrelevant questions and answers, all objections which have been abandoned, and irrelevant colloquy between the attorneys. Purging shall be accomplished by designating the page and line numbers of material proposed to be used. This may be accomplished by the use of a high-lighting marker. A copy of the depositions so purged, or designations thereof, shall be served upon the opposing party no later than ten days before the pretrial conference. Objections and counter-designations by the opposing party shall be served no later than five days before the pretrial conference. Objections shall be submitted to the Court for resolution at the pretrial conference and depositions shall be purged in accordance with the court's ruling. This subsection shall not apply to depositions used to refresh recollection, as an admission against interest, or for impeachment.

**(a) Use of Videotape Depositions.** Any deposition to be taken upon oral deposition may be recorded by videotape. Except as otherwise provided by this rule, all other rules governing the practice and procedure in depositions and discovery shall apply.

**(b) Subpoena and Notices of Videotape  
Depositions**

Every notice of subpoena for the taking of videotape deposition shall state that it is to be videotaped, the name and address of the person before whom it is to be taken, and the name and address of the videotape operator and of his employer. The operator may be an employee of the attorney taking the deposition.

**(c) Transcript of Videotape Deposition**

A stenographic transcript of the video deposition shall not be required, unless, upon motion of any party, or sua sponte, the court so directs, and apportions the cost of same among the parties as appropriate. Any party may elect to provide a transcript at his expense, in which event copies shall be made available to all other counsel at cost.

**(d) Videotaping Deposition Procedure**

The deposition shall begin by the operator stating on camera (1) his name and address, (2) the name and address of his employer, (3) the date, time and place of the deposition, (4) the caption of the case, (5) the name of the witness, and (6) the party on whose behalf the deposition is being taken. The officer before whom the deposition is taken shall then identify himself and swear the witness on camera. At the conclusion of the deposition the operator shall state on camera that the deposition is concluded. When the length of the deposition requires the use of more than one tape, the end of each tape and the beginning of each succeeding tape shall be announced on camera by the operator.

**(e) Timing**

The deposition shall be timed by a digital clock on camera which shall show continually each hour, minute and second of each tape of the deposition.

**(f) No Signature**

No signature of the witness to a videotaped deposition will be required.

**(g) Custody and Copies.** The attorney for the party taking the deposition shall take custody of and be responsible for safeguarding of the videotape and shall permit the viewing of and shall provide a copy of the videotape or the audio portion thereof upon the request and at the cost of a party.

**(h) Use**

A videotape deposition may be used to the same extent and in the same manner as an oral deposition under FED. R. CIV. P. 32.

## LR 33.1

### INTERROGATORIES TO PARTIES

#### (a) **Filing**

Interrogatories shall not be filed. It shall be the responsibility of the initiating party to maintain the original, together with answers, and to make them available as may be required during proceedings.

#### (b) **Limitation**

The number of interrogatories which may be propounded to any one party by any adverse party shall be twenty-five, including subparts. Such limitation may be subject to modification by the Court for good cause.

#### (c) **Procedure**

(1) **Form.** The interrogatories shall be so arranged that after each separate question shall appear a blank space reasonably calculated to enable the answering party to have the answer typed in the space. The answering party shall verify his answers to said interrogatories immediately following his answer to the last interrogatory so propounded.

(2) **Service.** A party submitting the interrogatories shall serve and leave with the person to whom the interrogatories are directed the original thereof. Proof of service is governed by [LR 5.1\(b\)](#).

(3) **Answers to Interrogatories.** The party to whom interrogatories are directed shall answer each inter-



rogatory within the space so provided or use additional pages, if necessary, or shall answer the interrogatories by preparing a separate document which contains both the interrogatories and the answers or responses thereto, and thereafter shall serve the original thereof upon the party propounding the interrogatories.

(4) **Objections to Interrogatories.** A party objecting to written interrogatories shall set forth each interrogatory objected to followed by his objection and the reasons for it.

## **LR 34.1**

### **REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION**

(a) Requests for production and material submitted in response thereto shall not be filed. The initiating party shall have responsibility for maintaining the original and making them available as may be required during proceedings.

(b) Requests for production may be propounded together with interrogatories, and in such event shall not be counted against the limitation on the number of interrogatories which may be propounded.

## **LR 36.1**

### **REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION**

(a) Requests for admission shall not be filed.

(b) Requests for admission shall not be combined in the same document with any other form of discovery. The number of requests for admission which may be directed to any one party by any adverse party shall be fifteen, including subparts. The genuineness of multiple documents may be included in one request. The limitation in this rule may be modified by the Court for good cause shown.

## **LR 37.1**

### **DISCOVERY MOTIONS**

#### **(a) Form**

Motions to compel answers to interrogatories or questions, or to determine the sufficiency of answers to either, and all objections to requests for admissions shall identify and quote in full each interrogatory or question and the answer, if any, or the admission sought to be obtained. Motions for production and motions for protective orders must set forth, without reference to other pleadings or documents, the objects sought to be produced.

#### **(b) Obligation to Confer**

A motion made pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 26 to 37 inclusive or FED. R. CIV. P. 45 will not be heard unless the parties have conferred and attempted to resolve their differences. At least ten (10) days before the date of the hearing, the parties shall file a statement setting forth the matters on which they have been unable to agree.

#### **(c) Time for Compliance**

The party against whom an order to compel has been entered shall comply with the order within ten (10) days after receiving notice of the Court order, unless the period is extended or reduced by Court order.

(d) The parties are reminded that FED. R. CIV. P. 37(a)(4) *mandates* the award of costs and attorney fees for inappropriate discovery practices.

**(e) Expedited Hearing**

Notwithstanding the provisions of this rule, expedited argument, which may be telephonic, is encouraged to resolve discovery matters which are not excessively complex or broad. The Court may dispense with formal motion practice and may require or allow expedited argument either on its own motion or upon application of any party.

**(f) Appointment of Special Master**

Where anticipated discovery is unusually complex, or where it appears that disputes over matters relating to discovery will be numerous, the Court may appoint a special master pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 53. The fees and costs of the master shall be borne by the parties in such amount and proportion as may be determined by the Court.

## **LR 38.1**

### **JURY DEMAND**

Federal practice sets forth stringent time requirements for submitting a jury demand. Counsel shall comply with FED. R. CIV. P. 38 and FED. R. CIV. P. 81.

## **LR 39.1**

### **TRIAL BRIEFS**

Trial briefs shall not exceed 20 pages without prior approval of the Court.

## **LR 40.1**

### **PRIORITIES OF CASES**

The trial calendar shall be arranged in the following order of precedence:

- (1) Criminal cases;
- (2) Civil cases with statutory precedence;
- (3) All other civil cases.



## **LR 40.2**

### **CALENDAR OF CASES**

#### **Setting and Notice**

Cases shall be set on the trial calendar by the Court.

## **LR 41.1**

### **DISMISSAL OF ACTIONS**

#### **(a) By Plaintiff—Voluntary**

In case of dismissal by filing notice pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 41(a)(1), such notice shall contain a statement that no answer, counterclaim, or motion for summary judgment has been served, and shall be signed by the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney.

#### **(b) For Lack of Prosecution**

In any civil case in which no action of record has been taken by the parties for the preceding one year the Court or a party shall note the case for dismissal and give thirty (30) days' notice to counsel of record. If no action of record is taken in the meantime, and no satisfactory explanation of non-action is submitted, an order of dismissal without prejudice will be entered by the Court on the date the case is noted for hearing.

## **LR 43.1**

### **EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES**

#### **(a) Conduct of Trial**

(1) On the trial of an issue of fact, only one attorney on either side shall examine or cross-examine any witness, except with the permission of the Court.

(2) It is the right and duty of an attorney to be present in the courtroom at all times the court may be in session. If an attorney is voluntarily absent during a court session, he waives his right to be present and consents to proceedings which take place in the courtroom during his absence.

(3) A party shall not be permitted to call more than two (2) expert witnesses on any issue, except with the permission of the Court.

#### **(b) Courtroom Decorum**

Counsel should be familiar with the guidelines set forth in [LR 83.1](#).

## **LR 44.1.1**

### **FOREIGN LAW**

A party who intends to rely on law other than federal law or Washington State law shall give notice of such law and jurisdiction in the pleadings. Upon a showing of good cause, the Court may allow notice at a later date if no prejudice results.

## **LR 47.1**

### **SELECTION OF JURORS AND JURY TRIALS**

#### **(a) Examination of Jurors**

Examination of trial jurors shall be conducted by the Court. Counsel shall submit to the Court any proposed voir dire questions at least five (5) business days prior to trial, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, or at such other time as the Court may direct.

#### **(b) Number of Jurors and Method of Selection**

In civil cases, the court shall seat not less than six and not more than twelve jurors. The number of jurors to be selected shall be determined by the court. The court shall advise the parties and counsel of the method of selection prior to the commencement of jury selection. Each party shall be entitled to three peremptory challenges or such number as the court determines in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1870. All selected jurors shall participate in the verdict, except for any juror(s) excused by the court for good cause.

In criminal cases, the number of jurors, alternates, and peremptory challenges shall be in accordance with FED. R. CRIM. P. 24. The court shall advise the parties and counsel of the method of selection prior to the commencement of jury selection.

**(c) Presence of Parties and Attorneys**

If a party or an attorney is voluntarily absent while a jury is deliberating, that party or attorney waives the right to be present and consents to proceedings which take place in the courtroom during such absence, after the expiration of 20 minutes from the time the party or attorney has been notified or attempted to be notified by telephone that his presence in the courtroom is required.

**(d) Contacting Jurors**

Counsel or the parties shall not contact or interview jurors or cause jurors to be contacted or interviewed after trial without first having been granted leave to do so by the Court.

## **LR 51.1**

### **JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **(a) Giving Instructions Prior to Argument**

It is the general policy of this Court to give the instructions to the jury after the close of evidence and prior to argument. However, the court may give instructions at anytime.

#### **(b) Copy of Instructions for Jury Use**

A written set of the Court's instructions may be given to the jury when they retire to deliberate their verdict.

#### **(c) Submission of Proposed Instructions**

In jury cases, counsel for each party shall at least five (5) days prior to trial, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, or such other time as may be fixed by the Court, file the original plus two clearly legible copies of proposed instructions with the Clerk. Each set of proposed instructions is to bear a cover sheet styled in the name and number of the case and titled (PLTF/DEF) PROPOSED JURY INSTRUCTIONS. Each proposed instruction shall be typewritten or printed on a separate, plain, unnumbered 8½" by 11" paper and shall be headed "Instruction No. \_\_\_\_". The original of each instruction shall be unnumbered, bear no citation of authorities and shall not be identified as to the proposed party. All other copies of each instruction shall be numbered and contain supporting citations at the end of the instruction.

Proposed instructions upon questions of law developed by the evidence, which could not reasonably be anticipated, may be submitted at any time before closing argument. Except as otherwise provided above, the failure to submit proposed instructions in accord with this rule, or at such other time as the Court may set by Order in a given case, shall be deemed a waiver of the defaulting party's right to propose instructions.



## **LR 54.1**

### **COST BILLS**

#### **(a) Verified Bill—Time for Serving**

The party in whose favor a judgment is rendered, and who is entitled to claim his costs, shall within ten days after the entry of judgment, serve on the attorney for the adverse party and file with the Clerk of the Court a verified bill of costs on a form which will be furnished by the Clerk of the Court upon request. The form of bill of costs shall contain a statement of notice to the adverse party specifying the time when such costs will be taxed, which shall not be less than five days from the date of service of the notice.

#### **(b) Proof of Service**

Proof or admission of service of the bill of costs and notice of taxation shall be filed before the time of hearing.

#### **(c) Objections to—How Made**

At the time specified in the notice, the party objecting to any item of costs contained in said bill of costs shall present his objections either orally or in writing, specifying each item to which objection is made, and the ground of the objection, and file any affidavit or other evidence relied on to support his objections, which evidence may be rebutted by other evidence.

**(d) Taxation of by Clerk**

The Clerk shall thereupon proceed to tax the costs, and shall allow only such items specified in the bill of costs as are properly chargeable as costs. The Clerk may require and consider further affidavits as necessary to determine allowable costs. The taxation of costs made by the Clerk shall be final unless modified on appeal as hereinafter provided.

**(e) Appeal from Decision of Clerk**

An appeal from the decision of the Clerk in the taxation of costs, may be taken to the Judge orally, by either party, instant, or by motion to retax upon written notice of not less than two days, served and filed with the Clerk within five days after the costs have been taxed by the Clerk, but not afterward. When taken upon notice, the motion to retax shall specify the rulings of the Clerk excepted to, and no other will be considered on the hearing. The motion will be heard upon the same papers and evidence used before the Clerk.

**(f) Rules of Taxation of Costs**

- (1) The fees of witnesses who testify shall be allowed, whether their attendance was procured by subpoena or was voluntary. Fees to witnesses who attend, but do not testify shall be allowed only upon order of the Court. Actual and necessary expense for travel, meals

and housing or the allowance as computed at government rates, whichever is less, may be allowed.

- (2) Stenographic fees for depositions may be allowed only when the deposition is used at trial or hearing for substantive or, in the Court's discretion, for impeachment purposes. Only the cost of the original deposition shall be taxed.
- (3) All other costs shall be taxed in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920, 1921, 1923 and 1927.

## **LR 54.2**

### **JURY COST ASSESSMENT**

Refer to Sanctions [LR 1.1\(b\)](#).

## **LR 55.1**

### **DEFAULTS**

#### **(a) Entry of Default**

Under federal practice the Clerk enters defaults without action by the Judge. Where a party has appeared but is in default, the Clerk, upon proof of ten days' written notice to the party in default by the moving party, may enter a default. Where a party has not appeared but the identity of that party's counsel or the whereabouts of that party is known to the moving party, the ten-day written notice shall be given to the attorney or party by the moving party. Any party so served may respond to the pleading or otherwise defend at any time before the presentment. If the identity of counsel for the non-appearing party and the whereabouts of the non-appearing party are unknown to the moving party, an affidavit so stating shall be filed with the motion. A default order or judgment entered by the Clerk under this rule is subject to review pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 55(c).

#### **(b) Entry of Judgment by Default**

A party entitled to have the Clerk enter judgment pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 55(b)(1) shall file an affidavit showing the principal amount due, which shall not exceed the amount demanded in the complaint, giving credit for any payments and showing the amounts and dates thereof, a computation of interest to the date of judgment, and costs and taxable disbursements claimed; the affidavit shall further state that:

- (1) The party against whom judgment is sought is not an infant or an incompetent person and is not protected by the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act;
- (2) A default has theretofore been entered by the Clerk;
- (3) The disbursements sought to be taxed have been made in the action, or will necessarily be made or incurred therein.

Notwithstanding the provisions of FED. R. CIV. P. 55(b)(1), the Clerk may refer any application for entry of default judgment to the Court for review prior to formal entry.

## **LR 56.1**

### **SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

(a) Any party filing a motion for summary judgment shall set forth separately from the memorandum of law, and in full, the specific facts relied upon in support of the motion. The specific facts shall be set forth in serial fashion and not in narrative form. As to each fact, the statement shall refer to the specific portion of the record where the fact is found (i.e., affidavit, deposition, etc.). The specific portions of the record relied upon shall be attached to the statement of material facts.

(b) Any party opposing a motion for summary judgment must file with its responsive memorandum a statement in the form prescribed in (a), setting forth the specific facts which the opposing party asserts establishes a genuine issue of material fact precluding summary judgment. Each fact must explicitly identify any fact(s) asserted by the moving party which the opposing party disputes or clarifies. (E.g.: “Defendant’s fact #1: Contrary to plaintiff’s fact #1, . . .”) Following the fact and record citation, the opposing party may briefly describe any evidentiary reason the moving party’s fact is disputed. (E.g.: “Defendant’s supplemental objection to plaintiff’s fact #1: hearsay.”)

(c) The moving party may file with its reply memorandum, if any, a statement in the form prescribed in (a), setting forth the specific facts which the moving party

asserts establishes the absence of genuine material fact disputes. Each fact must explicitly identify any fact(s) asserted by the opposing party which the moving party disputes or clarifies, although the moving party need not repeat facts asserted in its initial statement of facts. (E.g.: “Plaintiff’s fact #1: Contrary to defendant’s fact #1, . . .”) Following the fact and record citation, the moving party may briefly describe any evidentiary reason the opposing party’s fact is disputed. (E.g.: “Plaintiff’s supplemental objection to defendant’s fact #1: party admission exception to hearsay.”)

(d) In determining any motion for summary judgment, the Court may assume that the facts as claimed by the moving party are admitted to exist without controversy except as and to the extent that such facts are controverted by the record set forth in (b).



## **LR 66.1**

### **RECEIVERSHIPS**

#### **(a) Inventories**

Unless the Court otherwise orders, a receiver or similar officer as soon as practicable after his appointment, and not later than 20 days after he has taken possession of the estate, shall file an inventory of all the property and assets in his possession or in the possession of others who hold possession as his agents, and in a separate schedule, an inventory of the property and assets of the estate not reduced to possession by him but claimed and held by others.

#### **(b) Reports**

Within 6 months after the filing of the inventory, and at regular intervals of 6 months thereafter until discharged, or at such other times as the Court may direct, the receivers or other similar officer shall file reports of his receipts and expenditures and of his acts and transactions in an official capacity.

#### **(c) Compensation of Receivers, Attorneys, and Others**

The compensation of receivers or similar officers, of their counsel, and of all those who may have been appointed by the Court to aid in the administration of the estate, the conduct of its assets, the formation of reorganization plans, and the like, shall be ascertained and awarded

by the Court in its discretion. Such an allowance shall be made only on such notice to creditors and other persons in interest as the Court may direct. The notice shall state the amount claimed by each applicant.

**(d) Administration of Estates**

In all other respects the receiver or similar officer shall administer the estate as nearly as possible in accordance with the practice in the administration of estates in bankruptcy, except as otherwise ordered by the Court.

**(e) Receivership Action—How Dismissed**

No action in which a receiver has been appointed shall be dismissed by any party except by leave of Court and on such notice to other parties as the Court may prescribe.

## **LR 67.1**

### **DEPOSIT IN COURT**

Whenever it is admitted by the pleading of any party to an action, or is admitted by such party on his examination, that he has in his possession or under his control any money or other thing capable of delivery, which is the subject of the litigation and is held by him as trustee for another party to the cause, or which belongs to or is due to another party to the cause, the Court may in its discretion upon motion made after due notice, order the same to be deposited in court pending the determination of the litigation or to be delivered to the party to whom it belongs or is due, subject to further order of the Court, upon such conditions as may be just, including the release of the party who has it in possession from all further liability with respect to it.

Whenever a party seeks a court order for money to be deposited by the clerk in an interest-bearing account, the party shall personally deliver the order to the clerk or financial deputy who will inspect the proposed order for proper form and content and compliance with this rule prior to signature by the judge for whom the order is prepared.

Any order obtained by a party or parties in an action that directs the clerk to invest in an interest-bearing account or instrument funds deposited in the registry of the court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2041 shall include the following:

- (a) The amount to be invested;

(b) The name of the depository approved by the Treasury of the United States as a depository in which funds may be deposited;

(c) A designation of the type of account or instrument in which the funds shall be invested;

(d) Wording which directs the clerk to deduct from the income earned on the investment a fee, as set by the Director of the Administrative Office and authorized by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The fee, as adopted by local order, will be deducted when funds are withdrawn and distributed.

Unless the funds are deposited in a depository designated as above, the funds deposited with the Clerk shall be placed in the United States Treasury, which by statute earns no interest.

## **LR 69.1**

### **EXECUTION AND SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINATION OF JUDGMENT DEBTORS**

Supplemental proceedings for the examination of judgment debtors shall be without the intervention of the court by written interrogatories to the judgment debtor or by personal examination of the judgment debtor as to assets to be conducted in accordance with FED. R. CIV. P. 30 and 31.

In the event the judgment debtor does not fully or timely respond to such written or oral examination, the judgment creditor may apply to a Magistrate Judge of this district for an Order directing the judgment debtor to appear for examination before the Magistrate Judge. Supplemental examination of a judgment debtor shall not be conducted more often than once every six months.

## **LR 72.1**

### **MAGISTRATE JUDGES; PRETRIAL ORDERS**

Refer to Non-Dispositive Pretrial Matters, [LMR 3](#).

## **LR 73.1**

### **MAGISTRATE JUDGES; TRIAL BY CONSENT AND APPEAL OPTIONS**

Refer to Civil Trials Before Magistrate Judges by  
Consent of Parties 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), [LMR 12](#).

**LR 74.1**

**METHOD OF APPEAL  
FROM MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
TO DISTRICT JUDGE UNDER TITLE 28,  
U.S.C. § 636(c)(4) and Rule 73(d)**

Refer to Civil Trials Before Magistrate Judges by  
Consent of Parties 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), [LMR 12](#).



## LR 77.1

### SESSIONS OF COURT

(a) Regular sessions of Court shall be held in Spokane, Yakima or Richland, as the Court shall determine.

**(b) Photography, Televising, Broadcasting, Recording**

Pursuant to the direction of the Judicial Conference of the United States, no photographs may be taken and no recording or transmitting device, except those used by authorized Court personnel, may be used in a courtroom or its environs in connection with any judicial proceedings and the broadcasting of judicial proceedings by radio, television or other means is prohibited.

As used herein “judicial proceeding” means: (1) any trial or hearing other than a ceremonial occasion specifically exempted from those provisions by Court order; (2) any proceeding before any United States District Judge, Bankruptcy Judge or Magistrate Judge; (3) sessions of the Grand Jury; (4) any person participating in a judicial proceeding, including petit and grand jurors. “Courtroom” of a United States District Court means the foyer, witness room, jury room, chambers, and all space behind the doors containing the courtroom. “Courtroom” of a United States judge means any place where a judicial proceeding is conducted. The “environs” of the courtrooms of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington are defined as follows:

- (1) All areas in the portion of the United States Courthouse at Spokane, Washington occupied by the United States District Court including areas on the fifth, seventh, eighth and ninth floors of the building or on the second and third floor of the United States Post Office Building, Spokane, Washington.
- (2) All areas of the William O. Douglas Courthouse at Yakima, Washington occupied by the United States District Court.
- (3) All areas in the portion of the Federal Building at Richland, Washington occupied by the United States District Court including the mezzanine of the north wing of the building.
- (4) All other locations within the district where the Court is in session.

## **LR 78.1**

### **MOTION DAY**

See [LR 7.1\(e\)](#).

## **LR 79.1**

### **CUSTODY AND DISPOSITION OF EXHIBITS, DEPOSITIONS**

(a) After being admitted into evidence, exhibits of a documentary nature in any case pending or tried in this Court, shall be placed in the custody of the Clerk, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. All other exhibits, models and material offered or admitted in evidence shall be retained in the custody of the attorney or party producing the same at trial unless ordered by the Court.

1. At the conclusion of the trial or hearing, every exhibit marked for identification or introduced in evidence, and all depositions and transcripts, shall be returned to the party who produced them.

2. On request, a party or his attorney who has custody of any exhibits, has the responsibility to produce any and all such exhibits to this Court or the Court of Appeals; and shall grant the reasonable request of any party to examine or reproduce such for use in the proceeding.

(b) All exhibits received in evidence in a criminal case that are in the nature of narcotic drugs, legal or counterfeit money, firearms or contraband of any kind, shall be retained by the United States Attorney or his designee pending disposition of the case and for any appeal period thereafter.

(c) The Court, upon application, will order documentary exhibits retained by the Clerk returned to the party to whom they belong, upon the filing of copies thereof, approved by counsel for all parties concerned, in place of the originals.

(d) After final judgment and after the time for appeal and motion for new trial has passed, or upon the filing of a stipulation waiving and abandoning the right to appeal, and to a new trial, the Clerk is authorized, without further order of the Court, to return all exhibits and depositions in civil, criminal and bankruptcy cases to the respective parties or their counsel.

## **LR 83.1**

### **COURTROOM PRACTICE AND CIVILITY**

#### **(a) Examination of Witnesses and Argument**

(1) During opening statement, examination of witnesses and argument, counsel should stand at the lectern.

(2) Do not approach a witness without asking permission of the Court. When permission is granted for the purpose of working with an exhibit, resume the examination from the lectern when finished with the exhibit.

(3) Rise when addressing the Court and when making objections. This calls the Court's attention to you.

#### **(b) Objections to Questions**

(1) When objecting, state only that you are objecting and specify the ground or grounds of objection. Do not use objections for the purpose of making a speech, recapitulating testimony or attempting to guide the witness.

(2) Argument upon the objection will not be heard until permission is given or argument is requested by the Court.

#### **(c) Decorum**

(1) Colloquy or argument between attorneys is not permitted. Address all remarks to the Court.

(2) In a jury case, if there is an offer of stipulation, first confer with opposing counsel about it.

(3) Do not ask the reporter to mark testimony unless you have first obtained the Court's approval to do

so. Such permission will be granted only where testimony is expected to be unusually lengthy. All requests for re-reading of the questions or answers shall be addressed to the Court.

(4) Counsel during trial shall not exhibit familiarity with witnesses, jurors or opposing counsel. The use of first names or nicknames is to be avoided. During jury argument, no juror shall be addressed individually or by name.

(5) During the argument of opposing counsel, remain seated at the counsel table and be respectful. Never divert the attention of the Court or the jury.

**(d) The Witness and/or the Court**

(1) Witnesses shall at all times be treated with fairness, consideration and respect.

(2) No person shall ever by facial expression or other conduct exhibit any opinion concerning any testimony which is being given by a witness, or as to a ruling of the Court. Counsel will admonish their clients and witnesses about this common occurrence.

**(e) Court Hours and Promptness**

(1) The Court makes every effort to commence proceedings at the time set. Promptness is expected from counsel and witnesses.

(2) If a witness was on the stand at a recess or adjournment, have the witness on the stand ready to proceed when Court is resumed.

(3) Do not run out of witnesses. Counsel should make every effort to schedule witnesses in order to ensure full utilization of the trial day.

**(f) Witnesses Out of Sequence**

Upon a showing of particular need, the Court may permit a witness to be called out of order. Anticipate any such possibility and discuss it with opposing counsel. If there is objection, confer with the Court in advance.

**(g) Exhibits**

(1) Unless very few in number, exhibits should be premarked for identification prior to trial. The deputy clerk assigned to each judge will cooperate with counsel in facilitating the marking and management of exhibits.

(2) Each counsel shall keep a list of all exhibits.

(3) Unless it is not possible due to the nature of an exhibit, have photocopies of an exhibit for the Court, opposing counsel and the witness.

(4) Documents and other exhibits, where practical, should be shown to opposing counsel *before* their use in court.

(5) Each counsel is responsible for any exhibits secured from the Clerk. At each noontime or end-of-the-day adjournment, return all exhibits to the Clerk.

(6) Ordinarily, exhibits should be offered in evidence when they become admissible rather than at the end of counsel's case.



(7) When counsel or witnesses refer to an exhibit, mention should also be made of the exhibit number so that the record will be clear.

(8) Where maps, diagrams, pictures, etc. are being used as exhibits, and locations or features on such documents are being pointed out by witnesses or counsel, such locations should be indicated by appropriate markings on the documents if not readily apparent from the documents themselves. Unnecessary markings should be avoided. Markings on exhibits should only be made after receiving the Court's permission to do so.

(9) Where several exhibits are contained within an envelope, package or box, mark the container as exhibit 1, for example, and the contents as exhibit 1-A, 1-B, etc.

**(h) Difficult Questions—Advance notice**

If you have reason to anticipate that any question of law or evidence is difficult or will provoke an argument, give the Court advance notice.

**(i) Use of Answers to Interrogatories and  
Requests for Admissions**

Where there has been extensive discovery and counsel expects to offer answers to interrogatories or requests for admissions extracted from several separate documents, a document showing such question and answer or admission shall be prepared with copies for the Court and opposing counsel. This obviates the time-consuming process of thumbing through extensive files to locate the particular items.

**(j) Opening statements**

Confine your opening statements to what you expect the evidence to show. It is not proper to use the opening statement to argue the case or instruct as to the law.

**(k) Civility Code**

Members of the bar of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Washington shall conduct themselves in accordance with the following:

PREAMBLE

As a lawyer, I recognize my first duty is to zealously represent my client. Yet, each lawyer also has the responsibility for making our system of justice work honorably, fairly, and efficiently. To accomplish this end, I will comply with my profession's disciplinary standards, and be guided by the following creed when dealing with clients, opposing counsel, the courts and the general public.

(1) My Client:

- (a) I will be loyal and sensitive to my client's needs, but I will not permit that commitment to block my ability to provide objective and candid advice.

- (b) I will try to achieve my client's lawful objectives as quickly and economically as possible.
- (c) I will advise my client that civility and courtesy are not to be equated with weakness.
- (d) I will abide by my client's ethical decisions regarding the client's goals, but nevertheless will advise that a willingness to engage in settlement negotiations is consistent with zealous and effective representation.

(2) Opposing Parties and their Counsel:

- (a) I will try to act with dignity, integrity, and courtesy in oral and written communications.
- (b) My word is my bond, not only with opposing counsel, but in all my dealings.
- (c) In litigation, I will agree with reasonable requests for extensions of time, stipulate to undisputed facts to avoid needless costs or inconvenience, and waive proce-

dural formalities when the interests of my client will not be adversely affected.

- (d) I will facilitate the processing of all reasonable discovery requests.
- (e) I will not ask colleagues for the rescheduling of court settings or discovery proceedings unless a legitimate need exists; nor will I unreasonably withhold consent for scheduling accommodations. I will try to consult with opposing counsel before scheduling depositions, hearings and other proceedings or meetings.
- (f) I will promptly respond to oral and written communications.
- (g) I will avoid condemning my adversary or the opposing party.

(3) The Courts and Other Tribunals:

- (a) I will be candid with and courteous to the Court and its staff.

- (b) I will be punctual in attending court hearings, conferences and depositions; I recognize that tardiness is demeaning to me and to the profession.
- (c) I will stand to address the Court, and dress appropriately to show my respect for the Court and the law.
- (d) I will refrain from condemnation of the Court.

(4) The Public and our System of Justice:

- (a) I will remember that my responsibilities as a lawyer include a devotion to the public good and the improvement of the administration of justice, including the contribution of uncompensated time for those persons who cannot afford adequate legal assistance.
- (b) I will remember the need to promote the image of the profession in the eyes of the public and be guided accordingly when

considering advertising methods  
and content.

## **LR 83.2**

### **BAR ADMISSION**

#### **(a) Eligibility**

Any attorney who is a member in good standing of the Washington State Bar Association, and any attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of any state and who is employed by the United States or one of its agencies in a professional capacity, and who, while being so employed may have occasion to appear in this Court on behalf of the United States, is eligible for admission to the bar of this Court.

#### **(b) Procedure for Admission**

Each applicant for admission shall pay the Clerk the fee prescribed by the judges of this Court. The applicant shall file with the Clerk a verified petition on a form to be obtained from the Clerk, setting forth applicant's residence; office address; general and legal education; the Courts to which applicant has been admitted to practice; the disciplinary sanctions, if any, to which applicant has been subjected; and such other information required by the Court. Every petition for admission shall be accompanied by certificates from two members of the bar of this Court who are acquainted with the applicant. The certificant shall set forth their appraisal of the applicant's reputation and character. If the Clerk finds that the petition for admission complies with these requirements, he will submit it to the Court. If the Court is satisfied that the applicant is of good moral

character and professional standing, the petition will be granted but the applicant must then take the oath of admission in order to complete the admission process.

**(c) Permission to Participate in a Particular Case Pro Hac Vice**

(1) Any member in good standing of the bar of any Court of the United States, or of the highest Court of any state, or of any organized territory of the United States, and who neither resides nor maintains an office for the practice of law in the State of Washington, may be permitted upon a showing of particular need to appear and participate in a particular case. Any non-admitted attorney applying to participate in a particular case shall pay the application fee prescribed by the judges of this court. For good cause shown, the rule may be waived by the Court in a criminal case. There shall be joined of record in such appearance an associate attorney having an office in this state and admitted to practice in this Court who shall sign all pleadings, motions, and other papers prior to filing and shall meaningfully participate in the case.

(2) A motion to appear *pro hac vice* by non-admitted counsel pursuant to this Rule shall include the following:

- (a) Applicant's address and phone number;
- (b) Dates of admission to practice before other courts;
- (c) The name, address and phone number of admitted counsel with whom the applicant will be associated;



- (d) The necessity for appearance by the applicant;
- (e) Whether the applicant has ever been subject to any disciplinary sanctions by any court or Bar Association.

**(d) Appearances, Withdrawal and Substitution**

(1) An appearance may be made by filing a formal notice of appearance. Alternatively, the filing of any pleading shall constitute an appearance by the attorney who signs the pleading.

(2) A party having appeared by an attorney may not thereafter appear or act pro se in the cause, unless an order of substitution shall first have been made by the Court, after notice to the attorney then of record of such party and to other parties.

(3) When an attorney having appeared in a cause is removed, withdraws, dies or otherwise ceases to act as such, a party for whom he or she was acting as attorney must, before any further proceedings are had in the action on that party's behalf, appoint another attorney or file a statement of appearance pro se, unless such party is already represented by another attorney.

(4) The authority and duty of attorneys of record shall continue until withdrawal is approved by the Court or there shall be substitution of another attorney of record, and shall continue after final judgment for all proper purposes.

(5) No attorney shall withdraw his or her appearance in any cause, except by leave of Court, after notice served on his client and opposing counsel. A motion

for leave to withdraw shall demonstrate good cause and shall be governed by [LR 7.1](#).

**(e) Multiple counsel—Limitation of Activities**

If more than one attorney represents a party, only one attorney shall examine or cross-examine a witness in behalf of such party, and not more than two attorneys shall argue the merits of the cause on behalf of such party, except by permission of the Court.

**(f) Compliance with Local Rules and Practice Before the Court**

Every member of the bar of this court or attorney practicing before it shall be familiar with and comply with the Local Rules of this court and shall maintain the respect due courts of justice and judicial officers; shall perform with the honesty, care, and decorum required for the fair and efficient administration of justice; and shall discharge the obligations owed to his clients and to the judges of the court.

## **LR 83.3**

### **ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE**

#### **(a) Disbarment and Discipline**

(1) For good cause shown and after notice and an opportunity to be heard, any member of the bar of this court may be disbarred, suspended from practice for a definite time, reprimanded, or subjected to such other discipline as the Court may deem proper. The decision shall be made by the majority vote of the active judges of this court.

(2) The members of the bar of this court, and other attorneys appearing in cases in this court whether or not a member of the bar of this court, or of the bar of the State of Washington, shall be governed by and shall observe the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Washington State Bar in effect at the time these rules are adopted, together with any amendments or additions to such Rules. Any member of the bar of this court who has been suspended or disbarred from the practice of law by order of the highest court of any state, or any federal court, shall stand suspended from membership in the bar of this court until further order of the court. A decree of disbarment or suspension by the highest court of any state or any federal court or a judgment of conviction of a felony or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude shall be prima facie evidence of the unfitness of an attorney to practice before this court.

## **LR 83.4**

### **COURT POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**

Judges, attorneys and judicial employees shall fulfill their roles under the highest standards of professionalism. Unjustified treatment will be avoided in both language and action. All are aware of the need to act without regard to gender, race, religious or other inappropriate bias. To this end, persons appearing in court who believe they have been treated without equal respect and dignity may bring the matter to the attention of United States Magistrate Judge Cynthia Imbrogno and/or the chief judge. Matters brought to the attention of Magistrate Judge Cynthia Imbrogno will be discussed with the chief judge.

## **LR 83.5**

### **BANKRUPTCY CASES, PROCEEDINGS AND APPEALS**

#### **(a) Referral of Bankruptcy Cases and Proceedings**

**(1) Cases and Proceedings Under Title 11, United States Code.** This court hereby refers to the bankruptcy judges of this district all cases under Title 11, and all proceedings arising under Title 11 or arising in or related to cases under Title 11.

**(2) Cases and Proceedings Under the Bankruptcy Act of 1898.** The bankruptcy judges of this district shall hear and determine cases and proceedings arising under the Bankruptcy Act of 1898, as amended, pursuant to section 403(a) of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978.

#### **(b) Bankruptcy Appeals**

##### **(1) Bankruptcy Appellate Panel**

(a) Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 158 (b)(2), this court hereby authorizes a bankruptcy appellate panel to hear and determine appeals from judgments, orders, and decrees entered by bankruptcy judges

from this district, subject to the limitations set forth in sub-paragraphs (b) through (d).

(b) The bankruptcy appellate panel may hear and determine only those appeals in which all parties to the appeal consent thereto pursuant to [LR 83.5\(b\)\(2\)](#).

(c) The bankruptcy appellate panel may hear and determine appeals from final judgments, orders, and decrees entered by bankruptcy judges and, with leave of the bankruptcy appellate panel, appeals from interlocutory orders and decrees entered by bankruptcy judges.

(d) The bankruptcy appellate panel may hear and determine appeals from judgments, orders, and decrees entered by bankruptcy judges after July 20, 1984, and appeals transferred to this court from the previous Ninth Circuit bankruptcy appellate panel by section 115(b) of The Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act of 1984, P.L. 98-353. The bankruptcy appellate panel may not hear and determine appeals from judgments, orders, and decrees entered by bankruptcy judges between December 25, 1982, and July 10, 1984, under the Emergency Bankruptcy Rules of this district.

## **(2) Form and Time of Consent**

The consent of a party to allow an appeal to be heard and determined by the bankruptcy appellate panel

shall be deemed to have been given unless written objection thereto is timely made in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Amended Order Establishing and Continuing the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit, which is incorporated herein by reference. [This Amended Order is set forth in the Appendix of Orders of the Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit.]

### **(3) Rules Governing Bankruptcy Appeals**

(a) Practice in such bankruptcy appeals as may come before this district shall be governed by Part VIII of the Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, except as provided in this local rule or in rules subsequently adopted by this district court.

(b) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a), the time for filing appellant's, appellee's, and reply briefs for consideration by the district court shall be 40 days, 30 days and 14 days, respectively, in lieu of the time limits specified in Rule 8009(a) of the Rules of Bankruptcy Procedures; provided, however, that the district court or the bankruptcy appellate panel may shorten these time limits in appropriate cases.

(c) Notwithstanding Rule 8010 of the Rules of Bankruptcy Procedures, the appellant's and appellee's opening briefs shall not exceed thirty (30) pages, and reply briefs shall not exceed twenty (20) pages, exclusive of pages containing the table of

contents, tables of citations and any addendum containing statutes, rules, regulations, or similar material.

**(c) Effective Date**

The order covering this rule became effective May 20, 1985 and supersedes all previous orders of this court regarding bankruptcy cases, proceedings, and appeals provided, however, that all prior actions of the bankruptcy appellate panel not inconsistent herewith are not affected by this rule.



## **LMR 1**

### **GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES CONFERRED BY STATUTE OR RULE**

(a) Each United States Magistrate Judge appointed by this court is authorized to perform the duties prescribed by 28 U.S.C. § 636(a). These powers and duties include, but are not limited to the following:

(1) Acceptance of criminal complaints and issuance of arrest warrants or summonses; FED. R. CRIM. P. 4;

(2) Issuance of search warrants, including warrants based upon oral or telephonic testimony; FED. R. CRIM. P. 41;

(3) Conduct of initial appearance proceedings for defendants, informing them of the charges against them and of their rights, and imposing conditions of release; FED. R. CRIM. P. 5;

(4) Appointment of attorneys for defendants who are unable to afford or obtain counsel and approval of attorney's expense vouchers in appropriate cases; 18 U.S.C. § 3006A;

(5) Setting of bail for material witnesses; 18 U.S.C. § 3149;

(6) Conduct of preliminary examinations; FED. R. CRIM. P. 5.1 and 18 U.S.C. § 3060;

(7) Conduct of initial proceedings for defendants charged with criminal offenses in other districts; FED. R. CRIM. P. 40;

(8) Try persons accused of misdemeanors, order a presentence investigation report on any such person who is convicted or pleads guilty or nolo contendere, and sentence such persons, all in accordance with the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3401 and applicable rules; provided, however, that where defendant is entitled to trial by jury and does not waive that right, the trial shall be conducted by a District Judge or by a full-time magistrate judge;

(9) Authorize the issuance of subpoenas, writs of habeas corpus ad testificandum or ad prosequendum, and issue or authorize issuance of any other orders or warrants necessary to obtain the presence of parties or witnesses or evidence needed for court proceedings;

(10) Administration of oaths and taking of bail, acknowledgments, affidavits and depositions; 28 U.S.C. § 636(a)(2);

(11) Conduct extradition proceedings, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3184;

(12) Order examinations to determine mental competency under 18 U.S.C. § 4244 and conduct all further proceedings thereunder in cases to be tried by the magistrate judge;

(13) Supervise proceedings conducted pursuant to letters rogatory, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1782, when designated to do so by a district judge;

(14) Accept waivers of indictment, pursuant to FED. R. CRIM. P. 7(b);

(15) Impose appropriate sanctions upon parties or counsel appearing before them in any matter referred to them or with regard to which they have independent jurisdiction;

(16) Rule upon applications to proceed in forma pauperis, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915;

(17) Rule upon motions to require defendants in criminal cases to participate in a line-up, furnish handwriting samples or furnish voice exemplars;

(18) Issuance of administrative inspection warrants;

(19) Enforcement of awards of foreign consuls in differences between captains and crews of vessels of the consul's nation; 22 U.S.C. § 258(a);

(20) Conduct of proceedings for the transfer of offenders under 28 U.S.C. § 636(g);

(21) Conduct of initial proceedings upon the appearance of an individual accused of an act of juvenile delinquency; 18 U.S.C. § 5034;

(22) Appointment of interpreters in cases initiated by the United States; 28 U.S.C. §§1827 and 1828, FED. R. CRIM. P. 28;

(23) Direction of the payment of basic transportation and subsistence expenses for defendants financially unable to bear the costs of travel to required court appearances; 18 U.S.C. § 4285;

(24) Conduct of preliminary hearings leading to the revocation of probation; FED. R. CRIM. P. 32.1;

(25) Receipt of grand jury returns; FED. R. CRIM. P. 6(f);

(26) Disposition of assessments of up to \$200 for civil violations under the Federal Boat Safety Act; 46 U.S.C. §§ 4311(d) and 12309(c);

(27) Service as a member of the district's Speedy Trial Act Planning Group, including service as the reporter; 18 U.S.C. § 3168;

(28) Authorization of the disclosure of taxpayer information by the Internal Revenue Service;

(29) Service on a panel to select the Chief of an independent pretrial services agency for the district;

(b) Each United States magistrate judge appointed by this court is authorized to conduct arraignments in criminal cases not triable by the magistrate judge to the extent of taking a not-guilty plea, and further is authorized to order that arrested persons brought before him/her be released or detained, pending judicial proceedings, under the provisions of the Bail Reform Act. 18 U.S.C. § 3142, *et seq.*

## **LMR 2**

### **RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE IN MISDEMEANOR CASES**

(a) The practice and procedure for the trial of misdemeanor cases before magistrate judges, and for the taking and hearing of appeals therefrom to the district court, shall conform to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. §§ 3401 and 3402, FED. R. CRIM. P. 58 and of any other rules promulgated by the Supreme Court pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3402.

(b) All informations, indictments, citations, or other instruments on file with the Clerk which charge only misdemeanors (including such cases transferred to this district under FED. R. CRIM. P. 20) shall upon filing with the Clerk be assigned to a magistrate judge. At an appropriate place or places in proceedings before the magistrate judge, the magistrate judge shall determine if the defendant consents to be tried before said magistrate judge. If the defendant thereafter elects to be tried or plead before a district judge, the magistrate judge shall note that fact and return the papers related to the case to the Clerk.

(c) Payment of the sums fixed in this court's Petty Offense Bail Schedule may be accepted in lieu of appearance and as authorizing termination of the proceedings.

### **LMR 3**

#### **NON-DISPOSITIVE PRETRIAL MATTERS**

(a) In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A), the full-time magistrate judges in this district may, upon reference by a district judge, hear and determine any pretrial matter in a case pending before the district judge, other than those matters specified in [LMR 4\(a\)\(3\)](#), *infra*.

(b) Any party may appeal from a magistrate judge's determination made under this rule within ten days after being served with a copy of the magistrate judge's order unless additional time is prescribed by the magistrate judge or district judge in accord with applicable court rule. Such party shall file with the Clerk of Court, and serve on all parties and the district judge and magistrate judge, a written notice of appeal which shall specifically designate the order or part thereof appealed from and the basis for objection thereto. The district judge shall consider the appeal and shall affirm the determination of the magistrate judge unless that determination is found to be clearly erroneous or contrary to law.

## **LMR 4**

### **DISPOSITIVE PRETRIAL AND OTHER MATTERS**

(a) In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and (C), the full-time magistrate judges in this district may, upon reference by a district judge, in a case pending before the district judge, hear, conduct such evidentiary hearings as are deemed necessary or appropriate by the magistrate judge, and submit to the referring district judge proposed findings of fact and/or a report and recommendation for the disposition of:

(1) Applications for post-trial relief made by individuals convicted of criminal offenses;

(2) Prisoner petitions challenging conditions of confinement;

(3) Motions for injunctive relief (including temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions), for judgment on the pleadings, for summary judgment, to dismiss or quash an indictment or information made by a defendant, to suppress evidence in a criminal case, to dismiss or permit the maintenance of a class action, to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, to involuntarily dismiss an action, and for review of default judgments;

(4) Petitions or applications for judicial review of administrative determinations;

(5) Hearings to determine mental competency pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 4244, in cases to be tried by a district judge;

(6) Petitions to enforce compliance with a summons issued by the Internal Revenue Service, pursuant to 26 U.S.C. §§ 7402(b) and 7604(a); or proceedings to quash such summonses, pursuant to § 7609.

(b) In considering prisoner applications for post-trial relief under paragraph (a)(1), the magistrate judges may perform all the duties imposed on a judge in the rules governing § 2254 and § 2255 proceedings. In so doing, a magistrate judge may issue any preliminary orders, and conduct any necessary evidentiary hearing or other appropriate proceeding. Any order disposing of the petition may only be made by a judge.

(c) Any party may object to the magistrate judge's proposed findings, recommendations or report issued under this rule within ten days after being served with a copy thereof. Such party shall file with the Clerk of Court, and serve on all parties and the district judge and magistrate judge, written objections which shall specifically identify the portions of the proceedings as the district judge may require. The district judge shall make a de novo determination of those portions to which objection is made and may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate judge. The district judge, however, need not conduct a new hearing



and may consider the record developed before the magistrate judge, making his/her own determination on the basis of that record. The district judge may also receive further evidence, recall witnesses or recommit the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions.

## **LMR 5**

### **SPECIAL MASTER REFERENCES**

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(2), the full-time magistrate judges in this district, upon reference by a district judge, may, without additional compensation:

(a) Serve as special master pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 53;

(b) Serve as special master to try the issues in employment discrimination cases under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended [42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(f)(5)], without regard to the provisions of FED. R. CIV. P. 53(b), whenever the district judge determines that the case could not be scheduled for trial within one hundred and twenty (120) days after issue is joined;

(c) Serve as special master to try the issues in any civil case upon consent of the parties, without regard to the provisions of FED. R. CIV. P. 53(b).

In any civil case in which a full-time magistrate judge serves as a special master, the entry of final judgment shall be made by or at the direction of a district judge.

## **LMR 6**

### **REFERENCES TO FULL-TIME MAGISTRATE JUDGES**

When matters are referred by a district court judge as provided in LMR 3 through LMR 5, the magistrate judge to whom any such matter is referred shall establish the procedure for determination of any and all motions, for holding pretrial conferences, and for trial, and shall make any further necessary orders consistent with the requirements of these local rules and the instructions of the district judge to whom the case is assigned.

## **LMR 7**

### **MOTION PRACTICE BEFORE MAGISTRATE JUDGES**

With respect to any motion to be heard before a full-time magistrate judge, the parties shall comply in all respects with this court's local rules except for the following:

(a) Motions may be set by counsel without oral argument on any weekday. Counsel setting a hearing with oral argument shall contact the courtroom deputy of the presiding judge to determine available argument motion days.

(b) Motions will be ruled upon without oral argument unless the magistrate judge otherwise directs that the motion be noted for oral argument. The magistrate judge will consider a request for oral argument made by either party. A request for oral argument by the moving party shall be included in the motion. If the moving party fails to request oral argument, the opposing party may file and serve a written request therefor within seven calendar days from the date on which he/she was served with a copy of the motion.

## **LMR 8**

### **OTHER DUTIES OF FULL-TIME MAGISTRATE JUDGES**

The full-time magistrate judges in this district shall also:

(a) Conduct scheduling conferences, pretrial conferences, settlement conferences, omnibus hearings, and related pretrial proceedings when requested by a district judge;

(b) Preside at naturalization hearings when requested by the clerk;

(c) Maintain a roster of attorneys appointed to the Criminal Justice Act panel and solicit applications to the panel;

(d) In civil cases, conduct voir dire examination and impanel petit juries when requested by a district judge;

(e) Accept petit jury verdicts in civil cases when requested by or on behalf of a district judge when the judge is absent or unavailable;

(f) Conduct all proceedings relating to charges of probation violation except final revocation hearings for defendants sentenced by district judges;

(g) Have authority to order the exoneration or forfeiture of bonds;

(h) Conduct examinations of judgment debtors, in accordance with FED. R. CIV. P. 69;

(i) Establish, and from time to time amend, a schedule of fixed sums (bail schedule) to be paid in lieu of appearance in cases involving petty offenses as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 19, and designating for which such offenses court appearances shall be mandatory;

(j) Hear and determine applications by the United States to enter premises to effect a levy as provided in 26 U.S.C. § 6331;

(k) Have authority to rule upon objections to the taxing of costs;

(l) Have authority to enter orders and otherwise act on behalf of this court with respect to petitions for enforcement of subpoenas issued pursuant to the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974, 15 U.S.C. § 761, et seq.;

(m) Have authority to order the sealing and unsealing of documents by the Clerk of the Court;

(n) Have authority to order the preparation of such transcripts of proceedings in this court as the magistrate deems necessary to a determination of any matter to be considered by him; and

(o) Perform the functions specified in 18 U.S.C.

§§ 4107-4109, regarding proceedings for verification of consent by offenders to transfer to or from the United States, and appoint counsel in such cases;

(p) Exercise all powers and duties assigned to them from time to time by the district judges which are not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

## **LMR 9**

### **ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT PLAN**

The magistrate judges in this district, when and as requested, shall assist the district judges in the administration of the Criminal Justice Act Plan for the district. The magistrate judges shall have concurrent authority with the district judges to:

- (a) Supervise the panel of attorneys;
- (b) Determine the eligibility of a defendant to have counsel appointed;
- (c) Appoint counsel;
- (d) Examine and act upon vouchers, where the majority of the hours expended regard matters before said magistrate, submitted by appointed counsel.



## **LMR 10**

### **REVIEW OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE**

Request for modification of conditions of release in all criminal cases shall be heard by a magistrate judge unless otherwise directed by a district judge.

## **LMR 11**

### **APPEALS TO DISTRICT JUDGE**

#### **(a) From Judgment in Criminal Case.**

##### **(1) Perfecting Appeal.**

An appeal from a judgment of conviction by a magistrate judge to a judge of the District Court shall be taken within ten days after entry of the judgment. An appeal shall be taken by filing with the Clerk of the District Court a statement specifying the judgment from which an appeal is taken, and by serving a copy of the statement upon the United States Attorney, personally or by mail, and by filing a copy with the magistrate judge.

##### **(2) Transcript or Recording of Proceeding Before Magistrate Judge.**

Where the proceedings before a magistrate judge were tape recorded, that recording will be available for review by the district judge, without further action by the parties. Where either party wishes to have a transcript made from that recording, or where the proceedings were attended by a court reporter, the party requesting the transcript shall be responsible for arranging for and paying the cost of the preparation of the transcript. A party who qualifies may obtain authorization for the transcript pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A. The party requesting the transcript shall simultaneously file and serve a written notification that a transcript has been ordered.

Where the appellant wishes a transcript of the proceedings as above outlined, this transcript shall be

ordered within 10 days after filing the notice of appeal. If funding is to come from the United States under the Criminal Justice Act, the appellant is responsible for obtaining funding approval under 18 U.S.C. § 3006A within said 10-day period.

If the transcript cannot be completed within 30 days of the receipt of the order, appellant shall request an extension of the time for filing the transcript beyond this 30-day period from the district judge. The district judge may extend deadlines for filing transcripts and briefs.

(3) Other Record on Appeal.

All documents filed and exhibits presented in the proceedings before the magistrate judge shall be part of the record on appeal, without specific designation by the parties.

(4) Record of Proceedings.

The Clerk shall notify parties that the record of proceedings has been filed.

(5) Briefs.

Appellant shall file and serve his brief within 28 days after the transcript has been filed, or if no transcript is ordered, Appellant shall file and serve the brief within 28 days after the notice of appeal has been filed. Appellee shall file and serve his brief in response within 21 days thereafter. Appellant may file and serve a reply brief within 7 days thereafter. If appellant is not represented by counsel, appellant may file a short statement of the issues for the Court to consider on appeal, instead of a formal brief.

(6) Oral Argument.

The district judge shall have discretion whether to schedule oral argument on an appeal. Any party may file

and serve a written request for oral argument not later than the deadline for filing of his initial brief.

(b) From Judgment in Civil Case, Tried Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

(See Rule [LMR12\(e\)](#).)

(c) From Other Orders.

(See also Rules [LMR3\(b\)](#) and [4\(c\)](#).)

Rulings, orders or other actions by a magistrate judge in this district, review of which is not otherwise specifically provided for by law or these rules, shall, nevertheless, be subject to review by the District Court as follows:

Any party may file and serve, not later than 10 days thereafter, an application for a review of the magistrate judge's action taken by the district judge having jurisdiction. Copies of such application shall be served promptly upon the other parties, the district judge, and the magistrate judge.

After conducting whatever further proceedings as he or she deems appropriate, the district judge may adopt or reject, in whole or in part, the action taken by the magistrate judge, or take such other action as he or she deems appropriate.

(d) Review of Detention Order.

Any review of a detention order pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3145(b) shall be determined promptly. The application for revocation or amendment of the magistrate judge's order shall be filed within 10 days of the order, and shall be promptly served as specified in (c) above.

The moving party, in consultation with the Clerk, shall note this motion for prompt hearing before the district judge. The moving party shall be responsible for obtaining a prompt date for said hearing.

## LMR 12

### **CIVIL TRIALS BEFORE MAGISTRATE JUDGES BY CONSENT OF PARTIES 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)**

(a) **General Authority.** Upon the consent of the parties, and upon the entry of an order of reference by a district judge, a full-time magistrate judge may conduct any or all proceedings in any civil case which is filed in this court, including the conduct of a jury or nonjury trial, and may order the entry of final judgment, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). In the course of conducting such proceedings upon consent of the parties, a magistrate judge may hear and determine any and all pretrial and post-trial motions which are filed by the parties, including case-dispositive motions.

(b) **Notice to Parties.** At an appropriate time after a civil action is filed, the Clerk of the Court shall notify the parties of the availability of a magistrate judge to exercise jurisdiction. Enclosed with the notice shall be a consent form and a request that the Clerk be advised of the party's intention. When a case is set for status conference, the Clerk shall again furnish a consent form to all counsel except where a consent has been filed or the Clerk is advised that a consent will not be filed.

(c) **Obtaining Consent.** Thereafter, either the district court judge or the magistrate judge may again advise the

parties of the availability of a magistrate judge, but in so doing, shall also advise the parties that they are free to withhold consent without adverse substantive consequences.

(d) **Reference.** After the consent form has been executed and filed, the Clerk shall transmit it to the judge to whom the case has been assigned to consider the case for reference to a magistrate judge. The magistrate judge to whom a specific case is to be assigned shall be determined by the judge to whom the case was assigned. Once the case has been assigned to a magistrate judge, the magistrate judge shall have the authority to conduct any and all proceedings and to direct the Clerk of Court to enter a final judgment in the same manner as if a judge had presided. An order of reference can be vacated upon a proper showing, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(6).

(e) **Appeal.**

(1) Appeal to the Court of Appeals.

Upon entry of judgment at the direction of a magistrate judge pursuant to this rule, and 28 U.S.C. § 633(c)(3), any appeal shall be taken directly to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of this court.

(2) Appeal to District Judge.

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 633(c)(4), the parties may consent to appeal any judgment in a civil case disposed of by a magistrate judge to a judge of this court,

rather than directly to the Court of Appeals. While references under such a consent are not regularly made to a magistrate judge, in the unusual event of such a reference, the appeal shall be taken by filing a notice of appeal with the Clerk of Court within 30 days after entry of the magistrate judge's judgment; but if the United States or an officer or agency thereof is a party, the notice of appeal may be filed by any party within 60 days of entry of the judgment. Upon a showing of excusable neglect, the magistrate judge or a judge may extend the time for filing the notice of appeal upon motion filed not later than 20 days after the time otherwise prescribed by FED. R. CIV. P. 74. The running of the time for filing a notice of appeal is terminated as to all parties by the timely filing of any of the motions set forth in FED. R. CIV. P. 74(a); thereafter the time for appeal from the judgment of the magistrate judge shall be calculated as set forth in said rule. The Clerk of Court shall serve notice of the filing of a notice of appeal by mailing a copy thereof to counsel of record for all parties other than the appellant, or if a party is not represented by counsel to the party at his last known address.

The record on appeal to a judge shall consist of the original papers and exhibits filed with the court and the transcript of the proceedings before the magistrate judge, if any. Every effort shall be made by the parties, counsel, and the court to minimize the production and costs of transcriptions of the record, and otherwise to render the appeal expeditious and inexpensive, as mandated by 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(4).

The appellant shall within 30 days of the filing of the notice of appeal file a typewritten memorandum with the



clerk, together with two additional copies, stating the specific facts, points of law, and authorities on which the appeal is based. The appellant shall also file a copy of the memorandum on the appellee or appellees. The appellees shall file an answering memorandum within 30 days of the filing of the appellant's memorandum. The Court may extend these time limits upon a showing of good cause made by the party requesting the extension. Such good cause may include reasonable delay in the preparation of any necessary transcript. If an appellant fails to file his memorandum within the time provided by this rule, or any extension thereof, the court may dismiss the appeal.

The judge shall consider the appeal on the record, in the same manner as if the case had been appealed from a judgment of the district court to the court of appeals and may affirm, reverse, or modify the magistrate judge's judgment, or remand with instructions for further proceedings. The judge shall accept the magistrate judge's findings of fact unless they are clearly erroneous, and shall give due regard to the opportunity of the magistrate judge to judge the credibility of the witnesses.

## **LMR 13**

### **CHANGE OF TITLE**

Each United States magistrate judge appointed under 28 U.S.C. § 631 shall be known as a United States Magistrate Judge and any reference to any United States Magistrate or Magistrate that is contained in these local rules, shall be deemed to refer to a Magistrate Judge.

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